

ANISH OLD MASTERS AT BURLINGTON HOUSE (Illustrated).
SPORT OF THE LAKE DISTRICT (Illustrated). By Mary C. Fair.

COUNTRY LIFE

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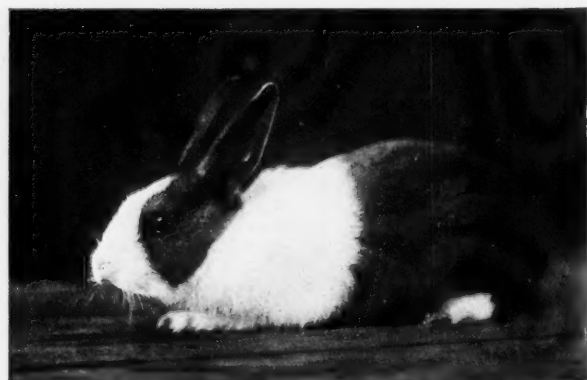
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COUNTRY LIFE

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PORTRAIT OF THE DUCHESS DE SANTOÑA. BY ALVAREZ DE SOTOMAYOR (FERNANDO).
Lent to the Exhibition of Spanish Paintings at Burlington House by the Duke of Alba and Berwick.

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The Unknown Warrior's Message

WHETHER hit upon the idea of withdrawing the remains of an unknown soldier from their obscure grave in an unknown country and burying it with the pomp and circumstance with which honour has been done in the past to men like Nelson and Wellington must rejoice that not only the people of this country but of other countries have risen to the height of this stirring and imaginative ceremonial. It is recognised that the dead man is typical of those whose bones are mouldering far from their native land. Such honour as is paid to him is paid to them also. The idea joins itself most naturally to that of the Cenotaph, the empty tomb unveiled in all its grave and memorable dignity on Thursday. Little remains to be said about the solemn and appropriate pageantry with which this act of remembrance was performed. There is no need to dilate on what was so speedily understood and felt. Yet it is not enough to cherish this mystic and romantic recognition. It needs backing of a solid and practical kind. One of our contributors, a poet whose battle-pieces were among the most striking and beautiful produced during the war, has sent us for this occasion a poem on the Unknown Warrior, which is printed among the "Country Notes" in this number. With it is an epitaph which could not easily be excelled. In it the author makes no attempt at achieving a merely beautiful effect. The epitaph is

couched in the direct and simple language suitable to the tombstone. It is a reminder of the debt we owe to those who have given their all for the country. This is the epitaph:

He who gives all claims from his fellow man
Completion of the work which he began.

There will not be any dispute about the aptness of this epitaph, and we hope it will make even the habitually unthinking ask what we are doing to complete the work that he began.

First of all we must define what that work was: and to do so it will be necessary to go back to the beginning of the war in which the unknown soldier fell. He was not unknown then, neither was he nameless. We may assume that he was one of those who left his native shores full of the enthusiastic patriotism which the leading spokesmen of England had expressed and excited. Our men did not go forth to fight for fighting's sake. They did not seek additional territory. They did not want to injure any nation except in so far as injury might be inflicted in self-defence. It was a war to end war. The belief then was general, and it has been confirmed since, that the Germans had long planned this war for purposes that have been explained over and over again. They believed it necessary to cripple France and to break Russia before that country developed the strength of which it was capable, while they had ultimate views involving the destruction of the British Empire. Preliminary endeavours had been made to rouse sedition in Canada, India, South Africa and Australia in order to weaken the power of the King's distant Dominions. The British nation, then, went into the fray for the purpose of overcoming an assailant and establishing peace. It was on many a platform called "a war to end war." From it the country emerged nominally on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the year 1918. But the war which had raged over many continents could not, in the nature of things end simultaneously at every distant corner of the globe. Fighting is going on still, and the first object at which to aim is the establishment of world-wide peace. Unfortunately the upheaval of the war let loose forces other than those strictly military. Russia, which had been the theatre of much fighting, became the birthplace of a cruel and bloody revolution. There is not a more savage act chronicled in history than the murder of the Czar and his family by the Bolsheviks. The men responsible for it have tried to extend their following in every part of the world. Wherever there is a stable Government they wish it upset, whatever be the price in blood and suffering.

Now, if we are to interpret the mind of the Unknown Soldier as that of a just and moderate average Englishman, we know that his object would be to reduce this strife. He would not be altogether on one side or on another because he would know there are abuses that need reforming as well as wild passions to be kept in check. In the great social struggle between Labour and Capital he would hold that one is necessary with the other; and, while admitting the claims of Labour to a fair share in the profits of production, he would also know that Capital is essential and is entitled to the same justice as the workman. He would know, too, that the heavy burden of taxation rendered necessary by the most expensive war ever carried out by the human race is bound to produce dissatisfaction and rebellion unless the burden is reduced by that greater prosperity which only can be achieved by more and more work.

Our Frontispiece

THE frontispiece to our issue of this week is from a painting lent by the Duke of Alba and Berwick, and now at the Exhibition of Spanish Pictures at Burlington House, of the Duchess de Santoña, daughter of the late Duke of Alba and Berwick and sister to the present Duke. The Duchess de Santoña is a Lady in Waiting to the Queen of Spain and accompanies the Queen on her present visit to England.

* * * Particulars and conditions of sale of estates and catalogues of furniture should be sent as soon as possible to COUNTRY LIFE, and followed in due course by a prompt notification of the results of the various sales.



COUNTRY NOTES

AN extremely interesting report has just been made public by the International Institute of Agriculture. It takes the shape of the customary Year Book of Agricultural Legislation for 1919, but it has a peculiar interest of its own. Before 1919 a great number of transitory enactments had been in operation the general purpose of which was to secure to the population the full use of available supplies. The general object was to prevent the exportation of domestic produce and to fix maximum prices for essential articles of consumption. But in 1919 the more permanent question of agricultural reform was taken up in such diverse countries as Germany, Denmark, Esthonia, Great Britain and Ireland, Poland, Rumania, Serbia and Czecho-Slovakia. Subjects dealt with have been the official organisation of agricultural associations which represent the farming interests in their respective localities and are asked to communicate their opinion to the central administration. Popular Insurance has absorbed much attention, as witness the new Unemployment Act which came into force in this country on Monday last. The relations between Labour and Capital have also been dealt with, and mention is made in the Report of the French and English legislation as to defective agricultural agreements, of the French law as to collective labour bargains, of the Spanish and Portuguese enactments as to labour exchanges, and of the Greek provisions as to house accommodation for leaseholders. In Italy decrees have set up commissions for dealing with the controversies arising from the conditions of agricultural work.

MR. J. H. THOMAS'S warning to his fellow-unionists deserves acknowledgment and support. He is one of the few Labour men who recognise what is in front of them. His own phrase, which he uses some half a dozen times in half a column of print, is "a bloody upheaval." The phrase is crude but it would be understood by those who listened to it. Mr. Thomas told them that he expected nothing from that upheaval if it did occur. A revolution has never helped labour. It means that they would be the chief sufferers. Untold misery is what the rash and headstrong are threatening to bring on their class. Another speaker at a different place spoke in the same vein. Mr. C. T. Cramp, Industrial Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said at Manchester on Saturday: "I should not be surprised if some of the greatest industrial conflicts we have ever had took place this winter." He looks forward to a lowered standard of living throughout Europe. As a matter of fact, that is scarcely avoidable. There is not the capital available to produce any quick alteration. London shopkeepers are already feeling that the money which was plentiful enough just after the war is now exhausted. Things are not being purchased, and the fall in prices which has taken place in clothes, boots and other commodities seems to be due simply to the need for men who have great stocks to reduce them. How they are doing it may be seen in the Strand shops. One, especially, showed in the window

this week boots at seventy-five shillings reduced to thirty shillings in one case, while fifty per cent. appeared to be the general reduction. One would like to know on what principles the earlier prices were fixed. Was there any need to charge seventy-five shillings for a pair of ordinary walking boots?

THE Lord Mayor's Show was shorn of much of the spectacular interest that was expected from it. A beautiful and interesting pageant had been planned, but the coal strike interfered with the preparations and it had to be abandoned. It was, in consequence, a simpler display, but the crowd was no less enthusiastic than they would have been if it had been more elaborate. They understood the situation thoroughly. Besides, London this week has had more than an ordinary share of public spectacle: the unveiling of the Cenotaph has dwarfed the importance of everything else. The spectators were more than lookers-on—they were mourners in whom the sense of personal loss has not been dimmed. The burial of the unknown soldier, too, had a poignancy which has never been experienced before on so large a scale and we hope never will be again. The man or woman is not to be envied who, after taking part in these solemn rites, can for one moment regret that a display for pleasure only had lost a little of its beauty and interest. Armistice Day, whether it be made into an annual occasion for demonstrating the unforgotten admiration of our young men or not, will not be allowed to pass without evoking many regretful memories. It is, in a way, a pity that it should follow so closely on the historic Lord Mayor's Show. There are few Londoners who would care for the latter to be discontinued, but the change from it to the august ceremonies of the Day of Remembrance is too violent.

NOVEMBER 11TH, 1920.

The long, low roll of the muffled, throbbing drums—
The pageant of "the soldier" through the city slowly comes,
A "soldier who died fighting," nameless, faceless, but his name
Shall live as long as England's and his fame shall be her fame.

Hear the steady tramp that beats
Through our brains and through the streets,
As they guard him to his place
With the great ones of our race.
England's humblest, greatest son—
Type of duty nobly done.

So salute him, as he comes to the throbbing, sobbing drums
And the fifes which rise triumphant o'er the muffled rolling drums,
O'er the drums.

EPITAPH.

He who gives all claims from his fellow man
Completion of the work which he began.

M. G. MEUGENS.

ON December 8th the Cambridge Senate will vote as to whether or not women shall be admitted to full membership of the University. It is probably not by chance that a day has been fixed which is after the end of full term. Many undergraduates will have gone down, and only real enthusiasts would stay up to celebrate the result by a friendly riot. Again, a cold winter's day does not induce even the youngest of us to shout in the streets all day, nor even to make a bonfire in the market-place at night. The famous "rag" of 1897, after the vote on women's degrees, took place on a fine summer's day. In any case, it would be far better that peace and quiet should prevail, for it is not everybody who can "rag" like a gentleman. The ratepayers of Cambridge, too, have since 1897 grown rather weary of such scenes. A bonfire in the abstract they do not mind, but the tearing up of their palings and tearing down of their shutters to feed the flames they regard as a doubtful joke.

THERE is for many people something very cheering in seeing cricket scores once more in the morning paper that they read at breakfast. The neat column of familiar and illustrious names seems to tinge for them with a ray of sunshine the November fog. Soon, when the Test matches begin, they will be making a dash for that cricket column before turning to the political situation.

Meanwhile, in their first and less critical engagements, our cricketers have made a very good beginning. Their huge score of over five hundred for five wickets against South Australia shows that the team has got rid of its sea legs. Hobbs and Hearne have been there before and have apparently soon jumped into form, but no more quickly than Hendren, Makepeace and Russell, who are new to Australian wickets and Australian crowds. The two latter should be very useful there, for they are of the reliable and steady-going type of batsmen. Time is, comparatively speaking, no object: they will let the runs come, and should get a good many of them. As to our bowlers we feel at present less certain; but Parkin, with the wicket helping him, has begun brilliantly, and much may depend on him.

IN all games there has been since the war something of a struggle between the elder players trying to keep their old places and the younger ones who will not be denied. We have seen it at golf, in which Duncan and Mitchell have succeeded in asserting themselves over the "Triumvirate," and much the same battle is being fought out at billiards. With Inman standing out last year and having not yet this year found his form, Smith and Newman, the two leaders of the younger school, have been gathering the honours. But it is pleasant to see life yet in the old dogs, and one of them, Reece, has just gained a gallant and convincing victory over Falkiner. They started from the same mark, both receiving 500 in 16,000, and Reece won by over 1,700 points. The match between Smith and Newman was also very interesting. Smith gave a start of 500 and won by nearly a thousand. Since he won the Championship he has gone from strength to strength and will be very difficult to deprive of it. The man in the street, however, will hardly believe in Inman being beaten on level terms till he actually sees it done. And it is not an easy thing to do.

ONCE every five years there is an election at the American Hall of Fame in New York and one was held early this month. One is not at all satisfied that the generation of a particular age is qualified to say what are the names entitled to immortality. Views on this subject are apt to change a great deal. Six were chosen at this election, of whom one was Robert Williams, who founded the State of Rhode Island and was a friend and contemporary of John Milton. It seems rather late in the day to put his name down. The best known men are Mark Twain, who is at the head of the list, and Augustus Saint Gaudens, the others being James Buchanan Eads, the famous engineer, Patrick Henry, a statesman during the War of Independence, and Greene Morton, the physician. There was also one woman selected out of twenty-seven whose names were put forward. Among the rejected were a number of names which we think famous on this side of the Atlantic—Cleveland, Walt Whitman, Whistler, H. M. Stanley. It is at least possible that a more serious age would give at least an equal place with Mark Twain to Walt Whitman. But this is only to show that artificial methods of prolonging remembrance in some outstanding way, never yet have proved satisfactory. The most ambitious efforts are to be found in the village graveyard, where the epitaphs extol the merits of men and women whose very names are forgotten by the children of their contemporaries.

THERE is something of Sir Thomas Browne's solemn and fanciful mysticism in the suggestion put forward by Dean Inge that time may be reversible. He finds an ingenious illustration of his meaning in the cinema. The order in which the pictures are shown may be reversed. A bathing scene is taken as an example. At first the surface of the water would be unruffled. Then there would be a splash, followed by the emergence of a pair of feet; next, the appearance of a human body describing a graceful curve upwards, and, finally, the bather standing on the margin of the pool in the attitude of one preparing to dive. The speculative mind cannot help dwelling on the possibilities of thus merging into one the past, the present and

the future. One might even surmise that a history of the future should be attempted on the Dean's hypothesis. It would be a deduction, just as the history of the past is a deduction, and probably one would be as accurate, or as inaccurate, as the other. The history of the present, which depends upon perception, has never been written in a manner that commanded the complete agreement of all who were contemporaries of the writer.

THE *Times* is to be congratulated on the appointment of Sir Campbell Stuart as Managing Director. Sir Campbell Stuart is a Canadian. Born at Montreal thirty-five years ago, he played with great energy and success many parts in the war. In Canada he recruited the Duchess of Connaught's Own Irish Canadian Rangers. In 1917 he became Assistant Military Attaché to the British Embassy at Washington and later Military Secretary of the British War Mission. The latest position he occupied was Deputy-Director of Propaganda in Enemy Countries. He has therefore had a fine preparation for the important post he is now called upon to fill. Sir Campbell Stuart adds one more to the list of distinguished Canadians who have returned to hold positions in this country. The most conspicuous of them is, of course, Mr. Bonar Law; but there are also others, such as Sir Hamar Greenwood and Dr. Macnamara. They all play a most useful part in cementing still closer the relations between Great Britain and the Dominion.

OLIVES BY THE SEA.

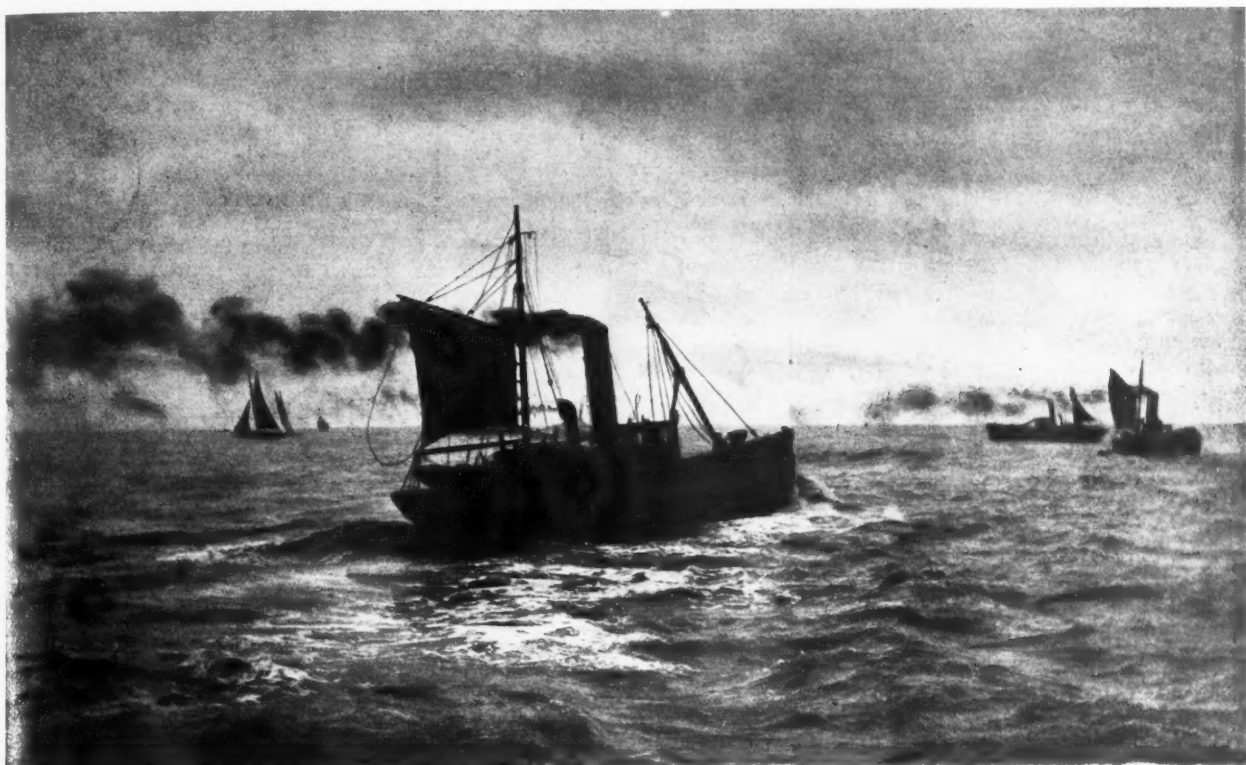
(Translated from the Catalan of Joseph Carner.)

Sweet 'tis to walk amid the olives
That sway in the silence, and ride
Like wandering wraiths of sea-mist
By the fringe of the tide.
And so light are their topmost branches,
They wave with hardly a sigh
For the pure joy of looking seaward,
And the laughing serenity.
Exquisitely wrought is an olive
Where the all-seeing sun never falters;
And on the leaves, unseen
Comes a light-footed breeze to o'ertake them
And with tenderest kisses awake them,
All trembling silver, and green.

J. B. TREND.

AT a recent meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society there was considered and accepted by a large majority a drastic report drawn up by the Special Committee on Finance. Strong measures were advocated and carried by Mr. Adeane and his friends, and it cannot be doubted that the situation was grave enough to require something of the kind. The position on October 29th was that the reserve fund was £150, the ordinary account £3,314 10s. 1d., and accounts amounting to £6,964 2s. 7d. had been passed for payment. The Darlington Show not only turned out badly from a financial point of view but it seems to be ominous of the future. The Show involved a loss to the Society of about £7,700. It is proposed to face the situation bravely. Expenses are to be reduced, revenue is to be increased by raising the entry fees for stock and the charges for implement shedding and by an increase of the charges for admission. The cause of the disastrous state of things calling for these measures is to be found in the increased cost of equipping the Show yard. It is another consequence of wages going up. A long argument took place as to the advisability or otherwise of stopping the experimental farm at Woburn. There are few theoretical or practical students of agriculture throughout the country who will not regret the decision to do this, however clearly they may appreciate the financial difficulties. Woburn has been of infinite benefit to all engaged in the work of husbandry. Its experiments were wisely conceived and efficiently carried out. The argument that there is no need for both it and Rothamsted is not sound. Rothamsted is a clay soil and Woburn a sandy one. Everybody knows the very great difference between farming on a heavy clay and farming on a light sand.

HERRING FISHING IN NOVEMBER



W. Selfe.

STEAM HERRING-BOATS OFF LOWESTOFT.

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EAST ANGLIA must feel extremely pre-war this November because the Scottish herring-boats have migrated south in as great numbers as they did before fateful 1914. It is estimated that about a thousand Scottish vessels and six hundred English are now busy, and the first catches have been most encouraging. In one day at Yarmouth six hundred boats came in with a total catch of some eight million herrings. The best boat had a quarter of a million and many had more than a hundred thousand. The average at Lowestoft was eighty thousand herrings. This is not only fortunate for the fishermen, but of great interest to students of the fish. From time to time herrings seem to change their favourite feeding grounds. This year the Northern boats had rather a thin time, and the Government, which has engaged to make up their earnings to a minimum, has run up a considerable bill. This is, in a sense, a sequel to the war.

The great herring-eating countries are those of Central Europe, particularly Germany and Austria, but they are so short of capital that they cannot at present buy the usual supplies. It is a serious matter, as about eighty per cent. of herrings caught were exported, chiefly to Russia and German Poland. The fishermen would, therefore, have had no inducement to go out if the Government had not come to the rescue. One hopes that the British consuming public will derive some advantage; at the same time it is impossible to feel anything



W. Selfe.

UNLOADING THE CATCH.
Fishermen on the quay at Lowestoft.

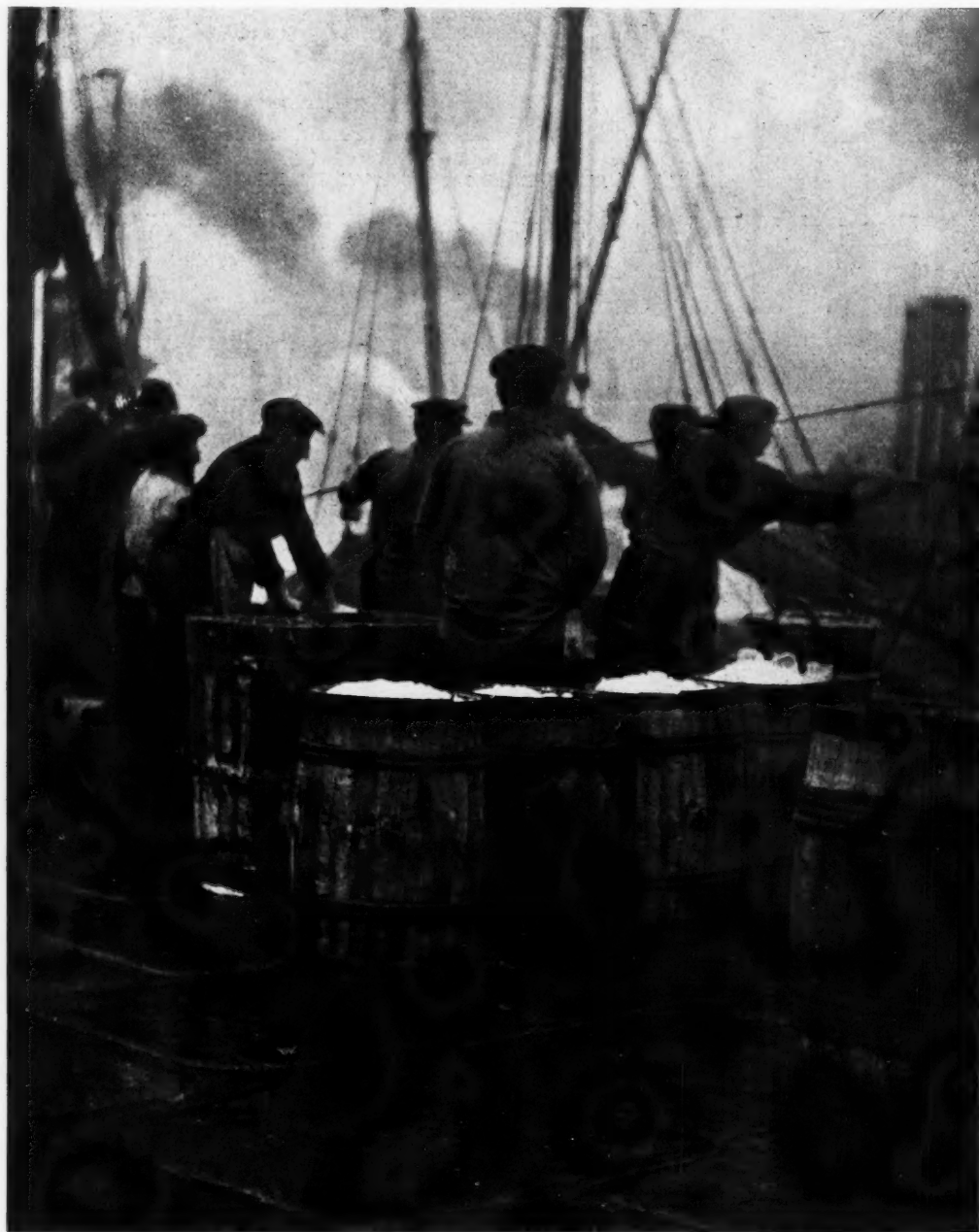
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but sorrow at the condition to which Russia and Poland have been reduced. The latest visitors to these countries describe the state of poverty as extreme. It is a pity that means could not be found to furnish them with food so cheap and nutritious as the humble herring.

It is by no means satisfactory to learn that so great was the pressure upon the curing houses that the nets had been stopped going out in order that the curers could get through with the large quantity of fish at their disposal. They have been almost overwhelmed by herrings. The summer herring fishing in Scottish waters was this year not wholly successful, and it is well that the English season promises to provide compensation for the poorer results further north. The Scottish girls who come south in order to split the herrings and assist otherwise in the curing are having a busy time. Quite a considerable population has migrated. There are about ten thousand fishermen and they bring contingents of women from the most distant parts of the Scottish seaboard, Orkney, Shetland and the Hebrides, and the many fishing towns and villages on the North-East Coast. They have been accustomed to travel at a reduced rate, but this year the railways made some objections and a few of the local people upheld them on the ground that many residents in East Anglia would be glad of the work. The matter came up before the Railway Rates Advisory Committee, sitting at Lincoln's Inn Old Hall.

Mr. Richardson, of the National Fish Trades Association, made very short work of the objections which were founded on ignorance of the difference between the Scottish girls and those on the East Coast. Time was when the latter were much

hardier than they are now, but they never acquired the art of splitting fish, and Mr. Richardson is of opinion that they could not do so in the time of one or two generations. This means that the change would be very expensive. Raw hands at splitting fish never acquire the quickness of those who have come from an old-fashioned fishing place. Indeed, there is nothing in England exactly like the amphibious boys and girls who belong to the villages on the North-East of Scotland and the islands. They have been used to the ways of fish almost from babyhood. Anyone who has visited these out-of-the-way places while the fishing is going on must know how the quays are crowded with active, clever little imps who at a very tender age fish on their own account and who will venture into crazy boats in a manner that would affright any elders except their own fathers and mothers, who have been brought up in the same way themselves and are quite accustomed to see the children take what to a foreign eye seems great risks. The children of East Anglia have never taken to the water so naturally. It is found to be the same on the coast as it is inland, where scarcely a woman can be found now to do the farm work to which they were all accustomed in the eighteenth century. Mr. Jephson remarked in some amusement: "You said it is done by a special breed of women, and that the gift is hereditary?" To which Mr. Richardson replied: "The Scottish splitter of fish does it like a flash of light, and I say that it would take more than a generation to train people in the work which the hardy Scottish girls do without wincing." Thus it is established that even the splitting of herrings may become a fine art among those who are inclined to make it so.



W. Selfe.

ON THE QUAY.

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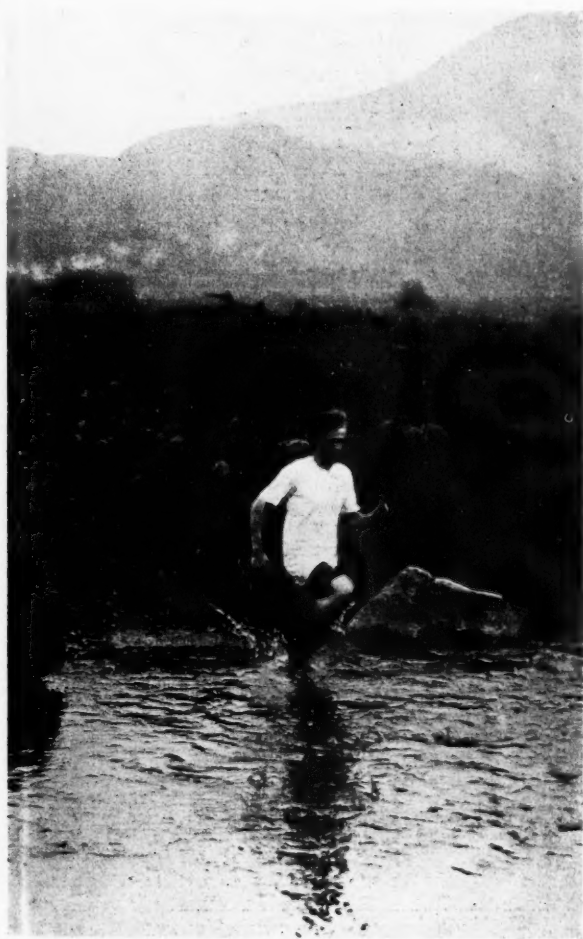
A SPORT OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY MARY C. FAIR.

THERE are few more strenuously contested events at the sports held in the Lake District than the fell races. These races are run over a course of about two miles of very stiff mountain country, the time taken averaging about fourteen minutes. The race is an exceedingly pretty sight, though it must be a great strain on the competitors. The start is from the more or less level ground of the valley where the show or sports are held. As the flag falls the graceful figures of the dalesmen shoot away like a flash and lightly jump the wall or fence, then into the rough, often very boggy ground at the foot of the mountain which has been selected as the "course" for the race. From this, probably, they plunge into a waving sea of waist-high bracken which is very bad going, and hidden boulders, rabbit holes and the like are very apt to cause a bad fall. However, they plough their way through the waving fronds, and with a bound the leading man is at the foot of the crag face up which they will climb to reach the summit cairn at the top of the mountain which is their goal. Here the pace slows down somewhat, for the climb is a very stiff one, and care has to be taken, for a slip might mean a bad accident. The fell runners, however, are exceedingly agile, swinging from rock to rock, finding a precarious foothold on tiny ledges and crannies as they swarm up the face of the crag like monkeys. At last they are out of the crags and on the boulder-strewn summit of the fell, and a sprint is made for the cairn at the very top, round which they have to pass. Here a marksman is stationed, to whom each man as he passes has to deliver a ticket with his number. Then comes the descent, and it is a wonderful sight to watch the lithe, agile forms of the young dalesmen as they swing into the crag face at a tremendous pace. From rock to rock they leap with the sure-footed precision of deer. I have seen one man jump a clear twelve or fourteen feet from a ledge in a perilous crag face to another very small perch below. There is no hesitation or pause. With a scramble and a slither they are out of the crags and into the deep bracken of the lower slope of the mountain. Here the leader trips and falls. He

is up again in an instant, but he has lost his place and he never recovers it. The man behind him shoots ahead and gains the easier going of the boggy ground, then the peat road leading to the show ground; there is a final desperate sprint, and the race is over with a dash through a tumbling mountain stream to the tapes. It is only a matter of a few yards between first and second, but the race is fairly and squarely won.

Grasmere is of course the fell race of the year; there were over thirty entries for it this year. It was a hotly contested race, won by Woolcock, a seventeen year old racer from Langdale. This lad is very good in the crags, and his pace on the flat is amazing. He holds the position of champion fell racer of the Lake District for the year, having altogether won eleven fell races during the season, finishing up with that at the Woolpack Sheep Show in Eskdale, where the race was over a stiff course, up Hare Crag, a precipitous spur of Scafell. Eskdale possesses a fine fell racer, William Irwin, of whom great things are hoped another season; he has won several races this year, taking third place at Grasmere. Fell racing successfully means that you have to be a first-rate all-round hill country man. You must be fast over boggy ground (not so easy as it sounds), you must be a good jumper over walls, posts and rails and wire. I have known a place lost by getting between the strands of wire at a fence instead of jumping the obstruction. In one fell race this year the lower slope of the selected mountain was clothed with very deep bracken through a dark and gloomy fir wood. In this wood one or two of the racers lost all sense of direction, one, indeed, losing his way altogether. Then you must be a quick and sure climber in the crags. Wind, hands, feet and eyes, all have to be in the best of condition to bring you safely out on the top of the craggy peak where the cairn marks your goal and the marksman stands ready to take your ticket. There is no pause as you swing past him, pushing the little numbered card into his hand, the next man hard upon your heels. He sees to it, however, that all the competitors duly go round the cairn. Anybody who tries to cut off corners



THE END OF THE RACE: CROSSING THE RIVER MITE.



DOWN THE CRAGS INTO THE SEA OF BRACKEN.



CLIMBING ON TO THE SUMMIT OF HARE CRAG.



UP THE CRAG FACE: A STIFF CLIMB.



GEORGE WOOLCOCK OF LANGDALE.
The 1920 Champion Fell Racer.



INTO THE BRACKEN.
At the foot of the crags.

there is sent back and made to take the proper course. It is the descent of the crags, perhaps, which requires the greatest skill and judgment of all. You must come at great pace, yet if you fall in such a place an ugly accident is certain. Quickness of eye, sureness of foot, are most necessary in dangerous places of the kind. Some of the fell racers come down the crags with both hands raised high to keep their balance; each man has his own style of running, and when you have seen them

at some place selected by their trainers and run a stiff mountain course, striving each day to reduce the time taken to run the training course, sometimes varying the proceedings with a sprinting race on the flat to train them for speed. There is generally an interested audience watching the training races, timing the competitors, considering their chances for the big races. Every dale hopes its best man will win the coveted honour at Grasmere!



ROUNDING THE SUMMIT CAIRN.



A COMPETITOR GIVING UP HIS TICKET.

several times at the work you can pick them out at a great distance as they flit lightly down the face of the crags. Light running shoes are worn, but they have to be equipped with special strong, sharp nails for the purpose, both to give a sure grip on the rocks and on the slippery peaty stuff of the boggy ground. The fell racers train steadily and methodically for these races. In the dales, evening after evening, when their long day's work on the farms, etc., is done, the young men gather

Fell races are held at most of the Lake District sports and shows. Grasmere, Ulleswater, Bowness, Pooley Bridge, Ennerdale, Santon Bridge (near Wastwater), the Woolpack Show and the Bower House Sports in Eskdale, the Eskdale and Ennerdale Hunt Puppy Show, Bootle, etc., are some of the places where fell races may be seen at their best. There is also a hound trail and wrestling at these typical sports of the Lake District Fell Dales.

ST. MARTIN'S SUMMER

St. Martin was a soldier
And a saint was he,
He prayed to our Lord God in church,
Upon his bended knee.

A poor man waited at the door
And filled the air with moans,
And shivered in the bitter blast
And lay upon the stones.

The holy water was not dry
Upon St. Martin's breast,
When he beheld that beggar man
In rags and tatters drest.

St. Martin slashed his cloak in twain
('Twas red as any rose),
"Take half my mantle, beggar man,
As covering to your woes!"

Ave Mary, full of grace,
Protect all soldiers bold,
And all the poor men in this place
And keep them from the cold!

Laus Deo! With the Saints,
Our orisons we make,
Lord send us half a summer day
For dear St. Martin's sake.

G. JAMES.

SPANISH OLD MASTERS AT BURLINGTON HOUSE

THE exhibition of Spanish pictures, opened at Burlington House on November 3rd, has not been without predecessors in this country. Leaving aside the exhibitions of Spanish art held at the New Gallery in 1895-96 and at the Guildhall in 1901, the remarkable gathering of Spanish old masters at the Grafton Galleries in 1913-14 will be fresh in the memory of many. The present exhibition differs from the previous ones inasmuch as it contains several loans from various public galleries and institutions in Spain, in addition to contributions from private collectors both in Spain and England; and the organisers may be congratulated on the conspicuous success achieved by them.

The works by modern Spanish artists in this exhibition lie outside the scope of the present article; as for the "Old Masters," they cover a period of five centuries—from the beginning of the fourteenth century till the beginning of the nineteenth. Among the earliest examples, particular attention is attracted by the large panel by the artist known as the Master

of Tobed, representing the Virgin and Child, with the portraits of Henry II, King of Castile, and his family in prayer (No. 2, lent by Don Román Vicente, Saragossa)—a large, sumptuously decorative panel, showing a considerable influence from the art of the contemporary Sienese painters; its date is known to lie between 1367 and 1379. Coming to the fifteenth century, when another current of foreign influence makes itself felt in the Spanish school—that of the Netherlandish painters—the work which above all others calls for notice is the "Saint Michael," by Bartolome Vermejo (No. 12, lent by Lady Ludlow), which has figured already at the Grafton Galleries: as a design it is most superb, and there is also something wonderfully romantic in the artist's conception of the slim and graceful youth, in whose hands the heavy sword seems a strange object, alighting on the monster in his armour of glistening steel and gold richly adorned with gems and precious stones, and with his gorgeous brocade mantle fluttering in the wind; the colours have all through a marvellous jewel-like quality, and the background

of lustrous gold adds to the gorgeous effect of the whole. There is no mistaking the fact that the artist has derived his style from that of the Flemish school; but none of the Flemish fifteenth century masters was ever so superbly decorative or made his conceptions expressive of the same romantic, chivalrous sentiment. Among less well known examples of this phase of the Spanish school may be mentioned the Annunciation with the portrait of the first Count of Alba in the act of praying (No. 11, lent by the Duke of Alba), a work highly remarkable on account of the absolutely unconventional and very refined feeling for colour which it reveals: to adopt the Whistlerian phraseology, it could be most aptly described as a "harmony in grey."

Among the masters of the sixteenth century, when the Italian influence asserted itself with peculiar force in Spanish painting, the most interesting is undoubtedly El Greco—the mysterious, fascinating master, born in Crete, trained in Venice and, since 1577 till his death in 1614, settled in Spain, chiefly in Toledo: the master whose influence upon some of the principal representatives of contemporary painting has been of the utmost importance. We see him here in various phases of his development: the weird "Glory of Philip II" (No. 39, lent by the King of Spain from the Escorial) still displaying markedly early characteristics in the



THE "ANNUNCIATION," BY EL GRECO (DOMINICO).
Canvas 96ins. by 82½ins. Lent by the Marquis de Urquijo.

preciseness of the forms and the positiveness of local colour; while the subsequent loosening of his handling and his changed ideas of colour are well exemplified in the wonderfully luminous "Annunciation"

(No. 43, lent by the Marquis de Urquijo, Madrid), a grand composition of very striking effect; and the extraordinarily subtly modelled, almost monochrome study of the nude, "St. Sebastian" (No. 42, lent by the Marquis de Casa Torres, Madrid). Of El Greco as a portrait painter a superb example is seen in the "Portrait of an Old Man" (No. 36, lent by Don Aureliano de Beruete, Madrid), by some identified with El Greco himself.

The Spanish school of the seventeenth century—the high summer of Spanish painting—is not, it must be owned, in any way adequately represented in the exhibition, though it certainly contains a number of fine and important specimens of this period. Of the work of the small Velazquez group, several of the most noteworthy have been exhibited before; less familiar is the powerful "Head" of the artist, by himself (No. 68, lent by the Fine Art Museum, Valencia), a work which, unfortunately, is in a rather poor state of preservation. Murillo, upon whose erstwhile position as the chief artist of the Spanish school our own time looks rather sceptically, is seen to particular advantage in two fine full-length portraits (No. 84, "Don Diego Felix du Esquivel y Aldama," lent by Don Aureliano de Beruete, Madrid; and No. 88, "Gabriel Esteban Murillo," lent by the Duke of Alba) and the noble group of "S. Leandro and S. Buenaventura" (No. 87, lent by the Museum at Seville). That fine and original artist, Francisco Zurbaran, is represented by a series of important works, among which my personal choice would be the superb "Benjamin" (No. 63, lent by the Earl of Ancaster), of equal boldness in the composition and the scheme of colour.

The great and solitary figure in Spanish eighteenth century art, Goya, has a room devoted to himself, and his wit as an interpreter of character, his fine sense of design and marvellous gifts as a colourist are well seen in the selection of works exhibited, which includes such superb examples as the "Duchess of Alba" (No. 115, lent by the Duke of Alba), the "Rosario Fernández" (No. 114, lent by the Academy of S. Fernando, Madrid), and, among the smaller pictures, that particularly brilliant and amusing little sketch, "An Amorous Parley" (No. 116, lent by the Marquis de la Romana, Madrid).

The success with which the exhibition is hung, calls for a word of special acknowledgment; and some superb pieces

of tapestry lent by the King of Spain—notably the "Triumph of Gluttony" in the Central Gallery—contribute in a most welcome manner to the *ensemble*. TANCRED BORENIUS.



"BENJAMIN," BY FRANCISCO DE ZURBARAN.

Canvas 7ft. by 3½ft. Lent by the Earl of Ancaster.



HONINGTON offers a very complete presentment of our Late Renaissance style, for it expresses not only the consistent principles and main features, but also the altering and successive details of the manner. Without, it is a Charles II house with some George II additions. Within, it is a rich and finished example of the decorative methods of the latter reign with something of the earlier peeping through or lurking in secondary places.

The Stour has its sources on the north-east slopes of the Cotswolds and flows northward to meet the Avon shortly after the latter has left Stratford. The Stour valley is typical of rural England, neither mountainous nor flat, well wooded, well farmed, well inhabited, a region of ancient prosperity and well being, with more savour of the past than of the present. For, although such centres of modern industry and modern populousness as Redditch and Leamington are but a score or so of miles away from Honington, yet its river babbles of old-time fashions as it courses leisurely through the rich meadows and past the picturesque villages that line and dot its course. Much of this absence of insistent modernity arises from the happy fact that no railway runs down the valley; its tiny town of Shipston, with no more than fifteen hundred souls, is sleepily served by a little winding bye line that reaches it at right angles to the valley and twice a day conducts a train along the nine

miles to Morton-in-the-Marsh, and takes three-quarters of an hour in doing so.

Thus the Honington pleasaunces occupy both sides of the river, and no road is visible but that which the beautiful stone bridge (Fig. 11) carries and which connects village, church and hall, on the east bank of the river, with the main way from Shipston to Stratford, hidden beyond the belt of noble trees that form the western boundary of the grounds. The loggia, placed in Georgian times in the centre of the south elevation (Fig. 8), looks along the formal parterre down on to the winding stream and lower slopes of the park (Fig. 13); while the western outlook is down the rapid slope and across the water to the opposite timbered bank where over one hundred and fifty years ago Joseph Townshend, assisted by Sanderson Miller, laid out woody groves and winding walks adorned with temple and grotto, erect goddesses and recumbent water deities in the full manner of the eighteenth century landscape school. Very different from this will have been mediæval Honington with its community of socage and cottar tenants, tilling the land and doing suit and service to its monkish lords. The manor was of those with which Earl Leofric and his wife Godiva had endowed their house of religion at Coventry in the days of Edward the Confessor. The monks held part of the land in demesne and the tenants had to plough, reap and carry as well as to make hay for them, but payment for this work was made in the shape





"COUNTRY LIFE."

2.—THE EAST OR ENTRANCE FRONT.
The main block built by Sir Henry Parker *circa* 1680. The arches at each end and the screen to the right added by Mr. Joseph Townshend *circa* 1744. The wing seen over the screen built by Mr. Frederick Townshend *circa* 1900.

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3.—ARCHWAY OF THE STABLES.

"C.L."



4.—THE SIDE DOOR OF THE HOUSE INTO THE STABLE YARD.

of fourpence in money, a cheese and eight loaves, as well as "one mutton," the value of the sheep being assessed at eightpence. One holding, at least, was superior to the general run and held on more honourable terms, for we hear of Nicholas Trimewell holding seven-yard lands by the service of one-tenth of a knight's fee. He was probably the precursor of the most important inhabitant of Honington at the time when the Coventry monks were dispossessed by Henry VIII, for we are told that it was "Robert Gybbes of Honington, Gentleman" who, in 1537 and on payment of £786 7s. 6d., purchased the place to hold of the King for the same tenth of a knight's fee: represented by the payment of an annual quit rent of £4 7s. 4d. He and his descendants remained seated here for over a century. The octagon stone columbarium and the gabled brick granary in the yard (Fig. 10) are, if somewhat altered, survivors of their "houses of office." Very likely that is true also of the fabric of the stable building (Fig. 5), although the entrance arch (Fig. 3), with its Doric pilasters and shell-headed niche, may date from the first years of Parker's ownership. Dugdale, in the first edition of his "History of Warwickshire," dating from Commonwealth days, sets down Sir Henry Gibbs as lord of the manor, but the additional matter of the 1730 edition tells us "it was afterwards bought by Sir Henry Parker Bar^t who built here a handsome seat & rebuilt the Church and lies buried in it." Burke tells us that the Parker baronets are, like the Earls of Morley, descended from Edmund Parker of North Molton in Devon, whose great-grandson had an elder son, Edmund, and a younger son, William, the latter being of Hoberton, Devon, and father of Hugh Parker of Shore-ditch, who had Hugh as his third son, and was born in 1607. He was a London merchant and alderman and in 1681 was created a baronet "of the City of London" with special remainder to his nephew "Henry Parker of Honington," who duly succeeded to the title when his uncle, just before he reached nonagenarian age, died and was buried in St. Bride's Church in 1698. Whether, as the 1730 Dugdale tells us, it was the nephew who acquired Honington or whether it was purchased soon after his birth in 1640 by his father, also a Henry Parker, is not clear, but there seems no doubt that the house was built by Henry the younger after Henry the elder departed this life in 1670.

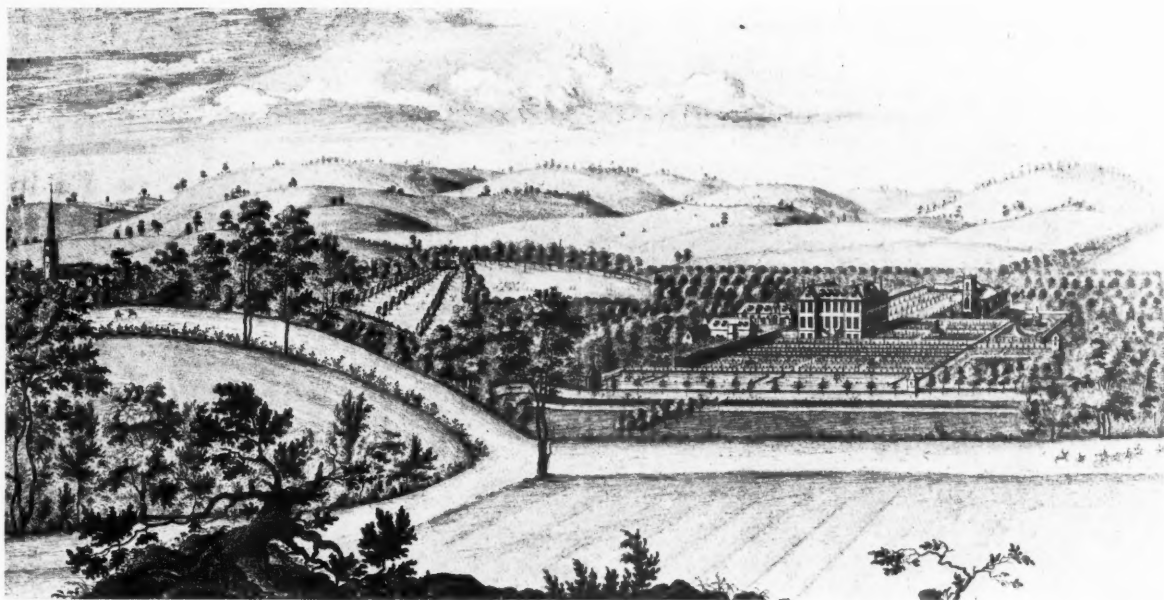
The house, as he built it, appears in an engraving by Buck (Fig. 6) dated 1731 and calling it "the Seat of Joseph Townshend." It had, therefore, at this date passed from Parkers to Townshends, but no alterations had yet been made. Thus it presents the same features as such late seventeenth century houses as Ramsbury and Uffington, but instead of being an unbroken parallelogram the ends project, as at Belton and Stoke Edith, although in less degree. That is still the character of the east elevation (Fig. 2), which is unaltered, but on the west side Joseph Townshend took down the wall of the recessed portion, brought it forward as three sides of an octagon (Fig. 7) and formed within the enlarged space a richly decorated octagon saloon which will in due course be illustrated. Such alteration called for a remodelling of the roof on this side, and there is some indication that he dealt with its other sides as well, lowering the whole slightly in the process. In their "Later Renaissance Architecture in England," Messrs. Belcher and Macartney tell us that "the object of the stone fascia above the first-floor windows is not quite clear, nor the reason for the unequal jointing. . . . Another unusual detail is the small flush quoin above the others which project." The latter detail is certainly very "unusual" and can scarcely have been the original intention. But if the roof was redone and set some inches lower, the cutting back and



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5.—THE STABLE YARD.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



6.—THE WEST SIDE AND GENERAL LAY-OUT IN 1730.



Copyright. 7.—THE WEST SIDE AS ALTERED BY JOSEPH TOWNSHEND AND HIS SUCCESSORS.

"C.L."

partial covering of the top quoin to take the cornice would naturally occur. So with the two courses of stone above the windows. At Rainham in Norfolk, the home of the parent stock of the Townshends, there is stone above the upper windows, but that meets a stone cornice and not one of wood as at Honington, where, however, the effect would be better if the two courses showed, as they may once have done, the same depth. The cornice, however, is in the full Charles II manner, and similar in all its parts, plain and enriched, to that at Ramsbury, where the stonework above the windows is carried along as a continuous frieze with excellent effect. At Honington the most salient feature of the east and south elevations are the niches above the ground-floor windows. Niches for busts were introduced by Webb in the forecourt screen at Ashdown, and the Lauderdale's inserted them on the Vavasor front of Ham House. There, however, they are ovals and kept well above the window heads. At Honington the busts are stood on the window heads, the centre of which projects to take them, the square-based niches being very shallow. Sir Henry Parker placed his twelve emperors above the east and south windows,

(Fig. 13), but stretches out further, so that the main path reaches beyond the turn into the section lying south of the churchyard, where the older central building and encircling fences have given place to a rose garden terminating with a pillared rotunda fitted as an orangery (Fig. 14). The architectural details are quite similar to the south loggia already mentioned and to the other larger, temple-fronted loggia (Fig. 7) which now lies against the stable wall and looks out south along the slopes of the lawn, but which, as we shall hear again, was moved there from the terrace in front of the octagon. All three pillared structures are certainly part of Joseph Townshend's mid-eighteenth century work, but the tall sundial that forms the foreground of the picture of the orangery, although it also exhibits a Doric column, has an earlier character and may be a survival of the original garden incidents.

As regards the front doorway (Fig. 2), the broken pediment contains a shield of arms of Townshend impaling Gore, but whether the shield alone or the whole door-case was added by Joseph Townshend it is a little difficult to decide, for such doorways arose early in our Late Renaissance period and



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8.—THE SOUTH SIDE.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

The loggia and slips added by Joseph Townshend *circa* 1744.

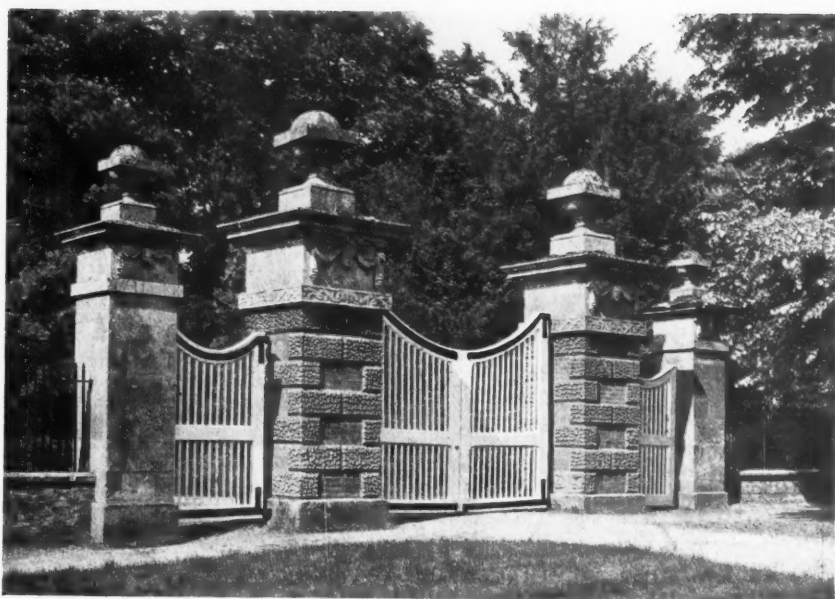
six on each side. But when Joseph Townshend set the pillared loggia before the two central south windows he had to take away two emperors, and ultimately gave them a new home over the west windows south of his saloon exerescence, but he did not provide additional ones to balance them on the other side.

The Buck view gives a good idea of the original Honington lay-out, which has been much modified, and also of the leading natural features and principal blocks of buildings as they still are. Across a meadow in the foreground we see the high road, along which a chariot and horsemen move southward, perhaps in order to cross the main bridge to Honington. A lesser bridge, apparently then existing, is reached from the road along a short avenue, and thence a way ascends the bank and terraces to the west front of the house, where a double flight of steps is fitted into the central recess. The church to the right and the stables to the left exhibit much the same appearance as to-day, but much of the formalism of avenues, terraces and pavilion-cornered enclosing walls and hedges gave way, as we have seen, to "landscape" treatment. The south parterre, however, with central fountain, still possesses the same form and character

continued late. It is noticeable that there now hangs on the west wall of the church, to the left of the Parker monument (Fig. 12), a great cartouche of the Parker arms that serves no particular purpose or intention where it now is, but gives the impression of having been designed for a broken pediment such as that of the front door-case. On the other hand, door-cases with pediments supported by engaged Corinthian columns were favoured by Joseph Townshend, and we shall see several of them when the interior of the house is illustrated. If the date of the front doorway may be a matter of some speculation, the same cannot be said of the doorway on the north front opening into the yard (Fig. 5). It offers an exceptionally rich and satisfying example of the shell hood (Fig. 4) which was freely used in many parts of the country under the later Stuarts. They are found in western counties like Devonshire and Gloucestershire as well as in East Anglia, while London and its suburbs have numerous and elaborate specimens such as at No. 9, Grosvenor Road and the twin example from Laurence Pountney Hill, where the date 1703 appears in one of the hoods. The Honington example with its strong Grinling Gibbons

flavour, tells of a rather earlier date than that, and is one of the features which lead to the surmise that Sir Henry Parker rebuilt the Gibbs house, if not the Gibbs stables, soon after his father's death in 1670; although the continuance of the style of that day, especially in the provinces, does not prevent the alternative of his having delayed so large an expense until 1698, when he succeeded to his uncle's title and, presumably, to his fortune. We may surely place the rebuilding of the church at a time subsequent to that, while the great Parker monument at the west end is very likely to have been ordered by Sir Henry Parker in the last year of his life, when he suffered the loss of his eldest son. The older church tower was left standing, and it rises up to the left of the visitor as he approaches the house. The body of the church (Fig. 12) will have been entirely reconstructed and is an excellent example of the country church of the Wren period, ranking with Gayhurst, Ingestre and Charlton Marshall. Above the round-headed windows with their leaded quarries runs a solid parapet with plinths, on which stand stone urns. Entering by the north door, we find the plasterwork barrel ceiling rising from an entablature of which the frieze is very rich and well designed. The arcading below is light and simple, an egg and tongue moulding just relieving the severity of the Doric capitals. Well proportioned but unenriched oak-panelled dado and pews furnish nave and aisles, but there is much carving about the pulpit, and the chancel seats have openwork carved panels like many city churches of the time. The builder's monument takes the form of a double niche, in which father and son stand looking at each other. Urns, like those on the parapet, but of the same white veined marble as the rest of the monument, top the flanking pilasters, and the intervening pediment contains and is surmounted by cartouches containing the Parker arms impaling, respectively, the arms of the wives of father and son.

Sir Henry had married, in 1665, Mary, daughter and eventual heiress of Alexander Hyde, Bishop of Salisbury, and first cousin to Edward Hyde, Lord Chancellor and Earl of Clarendon at the Restoration. Their eldest son, when he died in 1712, left a son, Henry, who was nine years old when he succeeded to his grandfather's title and estate in 1713. He is described as of Talton, and some time before 1731 he parted with Honington. He died in 1771. In this generation, also, the only son just failed to survive his father, and the baronetcy went to a cousin. The first Sir Henry's younger son, Hyde, Rector of Tredington—the spired church on the left of the Buck view—had two sons, and it was the elder who became fourth baronet, but dying without male issue in 1782 was succeeded by his more distinguished brother, Admiral Sir Hyde Parker. Born in 1714, the younger son of a country rector, he served for several years in the Merchant Service before entering the Navy at the age of twenty-four as an able seaman, serving on board various men-of-war such as the *Centurion*, then commanded by the future Lord Anson. In 1745 he passed his examination and, as lieutenant



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9.—THE ENTRANCE GATES.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



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10.—THE DOVECOTE IN THE STABLE YARD.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



Copyright.

11.—THE BRIDGE OVER THE STOUR.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



12.—WEST END OF THE CHURCH, SHOWING THE PARKER MONUMENT.



Copyright. 13.—THE FORMAL GARDEN FROM THE SOUTH LOGGIA. "C.L."

of the *Harwich*, sailed to the East Indies. As commander of the *Squirrel* in 1756 he was sent out to negotiate a redemption of European slaves in the hands of the ruler of Morocco. During the Seven Years' War he was again in the East Indies and took part in the capture of Pondicherry in 1761. Returning to England after the peace, he was still unemployed when his elder brother succeeded to the baronetcy in 1771. But when England was at war with her revolted American Colonies and their French allies he went as rear-admiral and second in command of the squadron which reached New York in a shattered condition in 1778, D'Estaing having fortunately withdrawn his greatly superior fleet just before. In the following year, commanding a West Indian squadron that watched the French, he was fortunate in capturing three frigates and many privateers and merchantmen. In 1780 he was



14.—THE SUNDIAL AND ORANGERY.

with Rodney, and by misunderstanding the latter's novel mode of attack frustrated the expectation of a decisive victory over De Grasse. When Rodney did defeat the French admiral two years later, Parker had perished. In the autumn of 1780, as a vice-admiral of sixty-six and of set notions, he fought, according to rule and with no considerable result, the Dutch fleet off the Dogger Bank. Succeeding his elder brother in July, 1782, he sailed in the *Cato* to take chief command in the East Indies, but after leaving Rio de Janeiro the *Cato* was never more heard of. His descendants continue the line of Parker baronets, being seated at Long Melford, a place sufficiently charming to mitigate regret at Honington having long ago passed from the family. Of its next owner and his alterations more will be said next week.

H. AVRAY TIPPING.

MORE NOTES ON THE COLOUR OF EGGS.—I

BY THE MASTER OF CHARTERHOUSE.

IN an article in COUNTRY LIFE on Guillemots' and Other Eggs I claimed for the great variety of pattern and colour which one finds with so many species of birds the following main purposes: (1) Protection from enemies through concealment and resemblance to surroundings ("protective resemblance") and (2) Recognition marks for the assistance of parent birds. I shall have to deal with this matter again in the course of this article. Meanwhile we may make a start by saying that the colours of eggs—I hope no purist will be down on me for calling white a colour throughout these papers—may be divided into three main groups:

- (1) White eggs.
- (2) Whole coloured tinted eggs (cream, buff, brown, blue, green, in any shades).
- (3) Patterned eggs (in any colours).

Naturalists are, on the whole, agreed that the primal colour of birds' eggs was white, just as it is in the case of their

located by one of these fiends the thing is at an end. Scent, not sight, was perhaps the sense that led him to the top of the hole. The colour of the eggs had no say in the matter. Nay, more, there is probable advantage to the birds who lay in the dark in having their eggs white, since it enables them to see more easily exactly where their eggs lie. This is especially true of birds who lay in caves.

There are, however, a considerable number of birds who lay in dark places, holes, covered nests, etc., who do not lay pure white eggs. But it will be found that the markings on the eggs are so faint (generally a delicate red) that the eggs, so far as the effect is concerned, are practically white; for example, the swallow, wren, nuthatch, the tits, the tree-creeper and the puffin. And there is again the instance of the magpie, who, building a domed nest, yet lays no white or whitish egg, but one which conforms to the general type of the crow tribe. I suggest that the habit of the magpie in building a domed nest is not his primal habit, but one acquired far more lately than the remote date at which the development of his egg colour and that of other crows



C. W. R. Knight.

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THE HERON LAYS A BLUE EGG ANYWHERE, EVEN ON THE GROUND, BUT WITH PREFERENCE FOR A TALL PINE OR OTHER TREE UNDER THE OPEN SKY.

ancient relatives the serpents and reptiles. The egg of a green snake may be mistaken at a hasty glance for that of a bird. I think it is Buckland who tells of a stable-boy who found some eggs in the saddle-room and proceeded to suck one—further result not recorded. And the white eggs of birds are merely those which retain their primeval hue, no pigment having been developed because something in the nesting habit or circumstances of the bird's life made concealment through pigment unnecessary. The large majority of birds who now lay these white eggs are found to nest in clefts and crannies, holes in trees and rocks and other dark places, or in domed nests. Under this heading come all the owls, the woodpeckers and wrynecks, the petrels (who all nest in burrows, except the fulmar), the stockdove (a most interesting case), the dipper (domed nest), the sand-martin, the house-martin, the kingfisher, the swift and others. None of these birds would have anything to gain for their progeny by laying "highly protected" eggs. Pure white is the most conspicuous of all colours. But it matters not what colour you lay your eggs when they are comfortably stowed away out of sight from the jackdaw, the crow or the jay. And even if the enemy be the stoat or the weasel, the rat or the mouse, or, more rarely, the viper, you will be no worse off by having the eggs white. For when the top of the hole or burrow is once

had reached a given point. There is no reason to suppose that a change of habit in any bird would send back an egg from a more or less "protected" colour to the primal white. I offer the opinion with reserve, however.

But there are again birds who do not lay in burrows or holes or dark places, but in the open, and yet lay white eggs. Among these may be mentioned the grebes, the pigeons (except the stockdove) and (under reserve) the fulmar. These cases are extremely interesting, each for its special reason. The eggs of the great grebe and the tiny dabchick are pure white for a very few hours. The birds have the habit, when they leave the nest, of covering up the eggs with the wet sedge and weed; and this practice, together with the trampling of the webby feet, which hold the mud, very soon turns a new-laid egg to a dirty buff and makes it a "protected" egg. So that a clutch of grebes' eggs in the open mere is no more conspicuous than the moorhen's or the coot's. The eggs of the pigeon, again, offer an interesting problem. Each one (I speak throughout this paper of British birds with few exceptions) is a layer of white eggs. Now the rockdove (rarest of any) still lays in caves, where protective colour would serve no purpose. Indeed, white eggs are an obvious advantage in enabling him to recognise them through the gloom. The woodpigeon, ringdove, stockdove, all

lay in trees in the open. The probable explanation would seem to be that all these three birds were originally cavelayers laying white eggs and that they have changed their habit. The fulmar petrel, again, claims special pleading. As we know him chiefly in his great colony on the face of the precipice of St. Kilda (there is now a second large colony in Foula and the Shetlands, and there are signs of other fresh colonies in other places), we find him apparently a breeder on the open ledges, like his neighbours, the guillemots and the razorbills. But whereas they lay the most highly coloured and, varied eggs of any known birds, the fulmar is content with a single white egg. On this point there are two things to be observed. First, that, as in the case of the grebes, the fulmar succeeds in a very few days in making his nice white egg into a dirty yellow (and very strongly smelling) affair, in which he is greatly assisted by his supply of fish-oil, which gets trampled into the rough surface of the egg. It is this oil which gives the peculiar flavour to a journey to St. Kilda. The bird, the eggs, the precipice, the inhabitants, the houses, all tell the same very unvarnished tale. But, secondly, and more importantly, it is probable that the fulmar's present habit again represents a change made under necessity. There is evidence that he prefers, when he can get it, a cranny, big hole or shadowed spot for his egg, and moreover, even with his present habit he makes just such a mere apology of a nest—a few bits of stuff—as the burrowing birds commonly do: the survival of an ancient habit. He would, I think there is no doubt, prefer his ancient method. But the islands and stacks of the St. Kilda group, in spite of their mighty perpendicular surfaces, are, for such large birds, who would need a big cranny and who build only in colonies, by no means inexhaustible. The housing question has long been for them acute there—that is why such sub-colonies as they have sent forth have gone far afield instead of close by. And so they have in process of time been driven to laying their eggs on the shelf instead of in the cupboard; imitating therein the habit of the guillemots aforesaid; and as in that case, no sort of harm seems to have resulted to the species from its laying its egg where it could be seen if there were any enemies of importance (except man, to whom blue or white, brown or yellow, shelf or cupboard, are, in his relentless search, indifferent) to see it. The raven, the crow, the evil-minded gull, will find the egg, no matter what the colour—gorgeous like the guillemot's or khaki like the fulmar's; and Nature, who never throws away her means, has no object in calling in her Selection to produce in a few thousands of years some fresh device for concealment.

These papers on Eggs are meant to be suggestive, not exhaustive. I doubt not that on this subject of white eggs I have jumped over—but not intentionally—a great deal that might seem to spoil my case, which is roughly this: White eggs represent in the main the primal colour of all birds' eggs. They are laid mainly in positions which obviate all need for protective concealment; or where this is not the case they are equally freed from that great need by the comparative absence of enemies who could be deceived by it; or by the presence of some other compensating clause through their circumstances.

The group of whole-coloured tinted eggs (cream, buff, brown, blue, green, in any shades) includes a large number of birds of very different habits and habitats. Birds who nest on the ground (like pheasants and partridges) and lay buff or drab eggs. Birds who lay blue eggs in holes or crannies (wheatears, redstarts). Birds who lay blue eggs in bush or tree (hedge-sparrows). The starling, layer of blue eggs with a general preference for holes, but happy anywhere. The heron, hardly less versatile in his tastes, laying a blue egg anywhere, even on the ground, but with a preference for a tall pine or other tree under the open sky. And all the duck laying cream or buffy or green eggs in varied situations, apparently contradicting, in one or other case, every well meant theory, and there have been many. Let us start as an example with the commonest of all, the hedge-sparrow. One

theory to account for the bright blue egg is that it is in reality "cryptic"—that, placed among leaves which reflect the blue of the sky, as no doubt leaves, especially shiny ones, do, they so mix with their surroundings as to make good protection after all. The weak point is that the hedge-sparrow's eggs are never so placed as to be open to the sky, but always among the leaves and twigs below, and always in such a way that the leaves above protect the eggs, when the bird is off them, from the rain (by exception some very early nests somewhat lack this protection). Another weak point is that the theory requires continual blue sky, and it is within our knowledge that the sky is sometimes grey or worse, especially in spring. Another theory is that the colour of the eggs may guide the bird back to her nest. But obviously the blue of the eggs is not visible to the bird until it has reached the very lip of the nest. Clearly he or she in returning to the nest is guided by locality, by little landmarks, familiar rest-points, till the bush is reached into which she pops and easily finds—not the eggs, but the nest. Any vile bird's-nesting boy (I was once one myself, though I rarely took an egg) will tell us that when he pops his head into a bush it is the nest which guides him. It is rare to see eggs. I do not know of any theory that does not break down before the blue of the hedge-sparrow's eggs. I have none to offer. But I incline to believe that there may have been a change of habit; and I will add that I do not believe that in present conditions there is either loss or gain to the bird from the colour. Whatever the enemy—serpent, weasel, rat, or human boy—he would be equally destructive, equally guided to the nest irrespective of the colour of the eggs inside it.

The blue eggs of the redstart, who likes a crack, and of the wheatear, who lays in a burrow, are different problems. Again, in both cases, I believe that we are in presence of a changed habit. The wheatear, indeed—like the redstart, a conspicuous bird (which the hedge-sparrow is not)—does not make its own burrow. It finds it less trouble to occupy a ready-made one. It has solved the housing problem for itself by taking an unfurnished home—a rabbit burrow, or tunnel between two stones, where it drops a few untidy sticks and feathers, on which the blue eggs rest. Another interesting example is that of the shelduck, who, like many ducks, lays a cream-coloured egg, which should not be necessary to one who merely adopts, without excavating it itself, a ready-made burrow. Here again (the bird once more is extremely conspicuous) one suspects a change of habit. It is to note that wherever a bird makes use of some structure not of its own making these departures from rule are most apt to be found. The vast majority of ducks not nesting in burrows or concealed places lay whole coloured buff or creamy or greenish eggs—helpful, no doubt, though the chief help comes from the adroit simplicity with which the duck chooses its nesting place. At the same time the toned

egg is undoubtedly a great advance on the pure white. In a former article on the Colour of Horses I pointed out that pure white in animals is the most conspicuous of hues. A pure white horse or cow is visible on a hillside when every other colour has gone out of range of vision. But the same is not true of a dirty white—as in an old horse, gravel-stained, or a yellowish cow. An interesting experiment with eggs will tell us the same. Take a few pure white hens' eggs and lay them in a little cluster on a bank or among herbage; six inches on one side place a similar cluster of the greenest duck eggs, and at another six inches a cluster of rich brown hen's eggs. Then nearly close the eyes (this is indispensable) and retire backwards. At a certain distance, varying with the degree of light, the brown or khaki eggs become invisible. At double the distance or thereabouts the green eggs go out, leaving the white a strong patch which remains visible for a very great distance. One may try the same experiment with ladies' dresses in a crowded street, but the practice is not good for crowded pavement traffic.

Now, these whole tints in birds' eggs, giving a certain protective value in conjunction with other means,



O. G. Pike.

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GREBES, WHEN THEY LEAVE THE NEST, COVER UP THE EGGS WITH WET SEDGE OR WEED.



H. Wiltford.

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THE WHEATEAR HAS SOLVED THE HOUSING PROBLEM BY TAKING AN UNFURNISHED HOME FOR ITSELF—A RABBIT BURROW, OR TUNNEL BETWEEN TWO STONES.

represent the first stage after the normal pure white towards the highly developed concealment patterns and coloration. Natural selection has carried the matter thus far, and it seems sufficient for the birds whom she has served by it,

since often she has helped them simultaneously by other aids in the struggle for existence—ducks, for example, are blessed with very large families. But it is in a further stage that she is to show her consummate achievement. G. S. DAVIES.

MAN'S INFLUENCE on his SURROUNDINGS

IN his learned and interesting volume on *Animal Life in Scotland* (Cambridge University Press) Mr. Ritchie puts the coming of man to the coastal valleys of the North at about nine thousand years ago, that is, the Neolithic period. For his purpose it was not necessary to go into the question of previous evolution or to say whether the long-haired, square-jawed hunter and fisherman was a migrant or not. At that time the British Isles were connected to the mainland of Europe. Mr. Ritchie quotes a troubadour of the twelfth century who mourns the submergence of the valleys which now are the waters of the North Sea and the English Channel.

That famous stretch of fertile land
Is hidden now by sea and sand,
No more will its venison grace the dish,
The ancient forest yields naught but fish.

It was a good point from which to begin his survey of the influence exerted by man on his surroundings. At present these surroundings, living or not, are artificial. The little Neolithic person's surroundings were natural, and a very charming description Mr. Ritchie gives of them. The country was one of swamps, forests of birch, elder and willow, fertile meadows and snow-capped mountains. Estuaries existed further inland than they now do, and on the forests and plains were to be found elk and reindeer, wild cattle, wild boar, wild horses, the European lynx, the brown bear and the wolf. Multitudes of wildfowl inhabited the marsh and must have made the air ring with their cries. A rich flora was spread over the valleys, the wild plants being mostly such as are known at the present day—grass, buttercups, thistles and dandelions, coltsfoot and chickweed, meadowsweet and red campion. In the thicket raspberry and bramble struggled for a place against the wild rose. The marshy lands encouraged the ragged robin, marsh marigold, rushes and sedges, along with other moisture-loving plants.

Such was the country before man's influence began to affect it. If we compare it with what exists to-day we gain an idea of the activity of mankind now rapidly striding to the front of the other beasts of the field. In place of this natural environment we find increasing evidence everywhere of his thrusting and meddling in the order of Nature. At first, no doubt, he lived in antipathy with the animals, fearing some and hunting others for their skins or flesh. For long he must have depended on very simple methods for catching animals for food. He could throw stones and he invented primitive traps.

You can imagine him watching, day and night, in some artificial or natural concealment, such as that afforded by stones and boulders, behind which he crouched till his prey advanced. It was chiefly as a hunter that he interfered with wild life at that stage in his development, but he was on the way to increased power. He learned to make slings from the pelts of the animals he had slain, and then came the invention of the bow and arrow, which must have appeared a weapon of terrible power in that early stage. And still his influence over external life was only that of a hunter. Presently he began to keep cattle and grow cereals, advances which led him into new lines of thought. Some animals he began to tame and consequently to improve. The more intelligent saw that modifications could be introduced by breeding, and hence there soon came to be a difference between, say, the sheep in the fold and the wild sheep on the hill, the wild ox and that which eventually was stabled and taught to drag the cart and the plough. The little wild horses were taken in hand and, once being subjugated, their evolution must have proceeded apace.

The domestic pig, if one may judge by old pictures, was very like that hump-backed rascal, the wild boar. Pigs were ill kept and left to roam about the town at night, going from one heap of offal to another in search of food. Authority could not easily stop the practice. In 1530 the Haddington Assize ordained that the hangman should escheat to himself all swine, dogs and cats that he found in the street; but a few years later the statute had to be re-ordained. That was in 1543, and it is interesting to note that at the same time gryse, or young swine, were valued at eighteenpence each, which was less than the price of a couple of capons (one shilling each) and a little more than the price of a goose (one shilling and fourpence). Now these half-wild animals existed in the Highlands and islands of Scotland until the middle of the nineteenth century. Professor Low found them in 1845.

Like their wild ancestors they had erect ears, an arched back with coarse bristles along neck and spine, and they were of dusky brown colour. They retained many wild habits, foraged for themselves on heath-clad hills or moors, grubbing up the roots of plants with their strong snouts, devouring, when they could find them, eggs and young of hill-birds, such as Plovers and Grouse, and even defenceless new-born lambs. Like the wild boars of north-eastern France to-day, they were the plague of the cultivated lands, now raiding potato-fields, now destroying corn crops. Lastly, they resembled wild pigs in their general build, having the small bodies and long legs of creatures whose food and safety depend upon their activity.

In his chapter on the barnyard fowl Mr. Ritchie shows that two breeds, essentially Scottish, have been produced by human interference. One is the Scots Grey and the other the Scottish Dumpie. The geese for which Scotland is now famous have been developed from the grey-lag goose. Mr. Ritchie is evidently inclined to think that the first geese kept in Scotland were those wild geese tamed. In a food list of 1551 the grey-lag is priced at two shillings, while the "claik, quink and rute"—the barnacle goose, the golden-eye duck and the brent goose—were fixed at eighteenpence. In favour of his contention is the fact that the grey-lag goose is very easily tamed. In Bishop Leslie's "Historie" there is an interesting account of the manner of taming wild birds in the sixteenth century.

Man produced a great many results by breeding and crossing animals. Other changes arose out of indirect action. The various mosses, mires and bogs were drained, after having been suffered to exist by many generations of man. The birds that used to inhabit them fled in search of an environment similar to that of which they had been deprived. As agriculture advanced some creatures were encouraged, others passed out of existence. Where there is plenty of food there will always be plenty of graminivorous birds, and experience has shown that birds not originally graminivorous have become so when other feeding grows scarce. The starling and the rook are conspicuous examples. Up to the middle of the eighteenth century the starling was a comparatively rare bird and very much valued as a pet on account of the ease with which it could be taught to imitate a tune or even human speech. The old Scottish saying about it was a rather cruel one, that it would speak if

its tongue were split with a silver sixpence. Birds of prey suffered more than any other. The golden eagle and the osprey were almost exterminated; so were the peregrines and other falconidae that had been used in hawking. In this and in other ways man was adapting and changing things to suit his own purpose until in the end his surroundings became largely artificial. His garden was filled with hybrids and imported plants. In his service were made breeds of domestic animals; even the landscape was changed by his planting and draining. We can gather a fair idea of what had occurred from the land that was allowed to revert to waste after the great agricultural depression that began in 1879. In many places a particular plant would take possession of the soil. It might be gorse in one neighbourhood, hawthorn in another, forest in a third. It is very remarkable indeed how swift and complete the reversion was in many cases. Had animals been neglected in the same way they would have gone back too, until the conditions under which Neolithic man lived were reproduced in these advanced days.

BOOKS WORTH READING.

- Pan*, by Knut Hamsun. (Gyldendal, 7s. 6d.)
In Chancery, by John Galsworthy. (Heinemann, 8s. 6d.)
Forty Days in 1914, second revised edition, by Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice, K.C.M.G., C.B. (Constable, 21s.)
The Angler's Garland, by Eric Parker. (Philip Allan, 6s. 6d.)
Irish Fairy Tales, by James Stephens. Illustrated by Arthur Rackham. (Macmillan, 15s.)

THE ART OF RUGBY FOOTBALL

III.—THE HAND-OFF, AND THE PASS.

By E. H. D. SEWELL.

THE hand-off is a lost art in Rugby football, sacrificed to over-indulgence in the return, or in-pass, from wing to centre, of which hundreds are attempted every season, and but few produce tries. When they do so it is generally only against a weak defence. There would be many more tries scored if wings studied the hand-off and coquetted less with the awkward return pass, for to accomplish this it is practically impossible to run at the highest possible speed, as a wing of all players always should. In using the

hand-off there is no need to check speed in the slightest; indeed, the faster the player goes the better for his purpose. Having on one occasion won the game for my side by breaking a player's collar-bone with a hand-off I claim the possession of something more than a nodding acquaintance with this weapon of attack. It was in the days when Bedford School used to take on, and beat, the might of Leicester, who on this occasion finished "one short"! With the exception of geniuses of the rare stamp of C. N. Lowe, no wing three-quarter should



A SUCCESSFUL HAND-OFF.

Here the Oxford Blue and right wing three-quarter, G. F. Wood, is seen at the instant of getting away from a would-be tackler, whose "high" attempt has failed.



THE WOULD-BE SCORER HAS MISSED HIS OPPONENT'S CHEST.

But, for all the failure of this hand-off, the correct leaning-towards-his-tackler attitude of Reitz has made a score certain.



THE DOWNWARD HAND-OFF.

Two clear instances of the downward hand-off which defeats a genuine attempt at a low tackle.

be considered to be a first-class player unless and until he can hand-off. He may masquerade as such, but the "Compleat" Wing is only he who, like the late Basil Maclear, J. G. G. Birkett, A. Stegmann of the South African team of 1906, S. W. Harris of England's best 1920 fifteens, and now Albertijn of Guy's Hospital, can use the hand-off properly. Some wings compound and make use of a sort of downward smacking blow at the outstretched arms of a tackler, but I am not quite sure that this is fair football. The method savours of hit. The true hand-off is no more than a push, the more effective the better it is timed. John Birkett, who was faster than he was generally credited with being, would have made a great left wing of three three-quarters because of his hand-off, and I always regretted that he never played for England on the left wing of four. It does not affect the case whether the tackler goes high or low for a wing who knows how to hand-off. That is perhaps the method's strongest point.

Turning to the illustrations, Wood of Oxford is a right wing who has genuine dash-speed over twenty-five yards. By this I mean that his is not the fleetness which carries a wing home from half way or beyond it by virtue of sheer pace. His is rather a dart for the line at shortish ranges, rather after H. Brougham, whose play on the Harlequins and England's right wing was such a feature of the season 1911-12. A wounded ankle does not seem to have affected Wood's powers, and last season he was the only one in first-class football to play in shoes. Cultivating the valuable hand-off he must go very near a cap this or next season.

Now we see a hand-off that failed, in the case where the Irish International W. D. Doherty has gone for a springing man-and-ball tackle, on the South African, F. W. Reitz. But, for all the failure of this hand-off, the correct leaning - towards - his - tackler attitude of Reitz has enabled him to so far evade arrest as to be certain to fall over the line for a try. Imagine Reitz at full height in this illustration, and you get either a true hand-off chest-high on Doherty, or the tackle effective and man and ball hurled over by its impact towards Reitz'

left hand. The mere fact of his leaning towards his would-be tackler lessens the chance of his failing to score, whatever else happens. There is, too, no very noticeable shortening of stride as his next step must, as things are, carry him over the line. Learners will observe the correct carry of the ball *always* under the arm nearest touch and away from the opponent. It is noticeable that some wings, even after a year or two in club football, which is not always first-class football, do not carry the ball properly. How this failure to play the game escaped the severe notice of their school captain and school coach is explicable only in one way!

I have written above that it does not affect the case whether a player goes high or goes low, the genuine hand-off is equally effective. In the next illustrations, of C. A. Kershaw in full flight for the line, are two clear instances of the downward hand-off which defeats a genuine attempt at a low tackle.

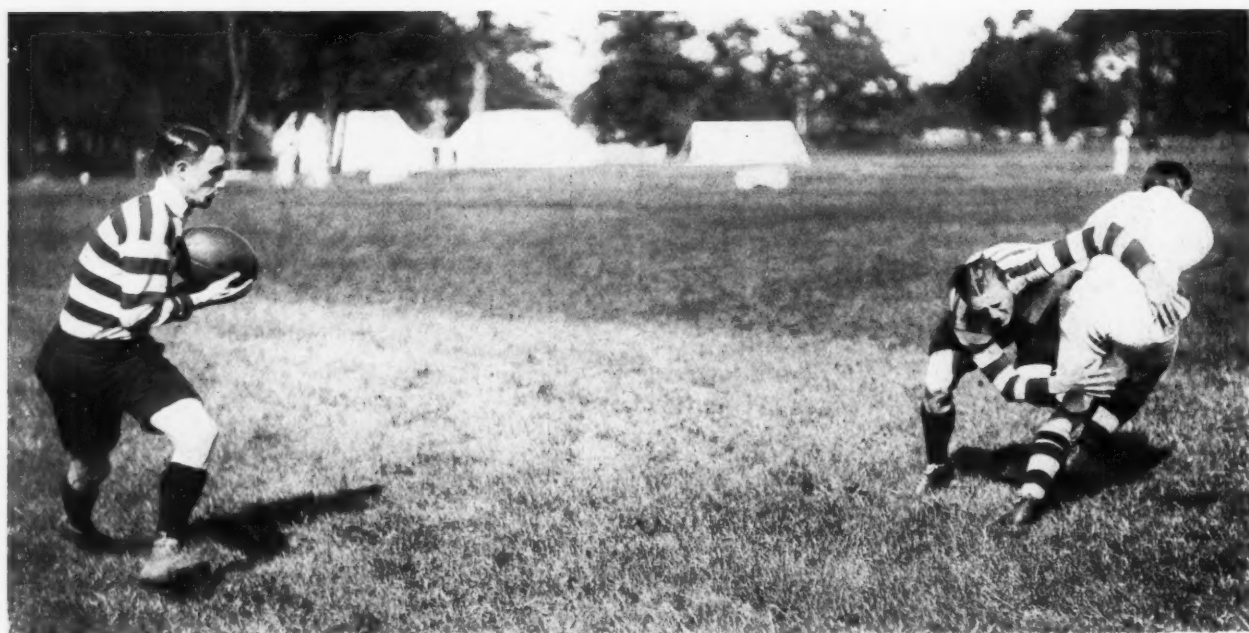
In both cases Commander Mackenzie went low and hard, and in neither has he brought down his man, nor is there any likelihood of that ending to the attempt. In the first case he has been brought on to his knee, and in the second he is on his way there; the runner is out of his reach in the next stride and he himself is sure to be on the turf. There are occasions when the hand-off at a player going low actually assists the hand-off on his way, and in the second of these Kershaw illustrations such is the case. In the first it is not so, because after the impact of hand-off Kershaw's hand has slipped off Mackenzie's shoulder and has nothing to push against.

In the next picture we see the genuine chest hand-off by Commander Mackenzie on Lieutenant Thompson, who has been "stopped," as is obvious from a glance at his hands. Here the hand-off is correctly leaning towards his opponent. This is a most important thing to remember, for it means full use of the weight of the man with the ball. That is the one weak spot in the hand-off, namely, that those who practise it are apt to dwell in their stride in order to lean towards their opponent and take aim for their push, as aim they must.



A FRUSTRATED "HIGH" TACKLE.

Commander E. G. Mackenzie warding off the tackle of Lieutenant Thompson.



A CORRECT PASS.

Here A. R. Aslett has timed his pass to his fellow centre before being tackled and uncompromisingly "downed."

The only defence against the hand-off is either to grab the player's arm or, seeing in time what he is about, to make a belated dive under his arm and increase speed simultaneously while going for the low tackle. This is all very well if the runner is not very fast or is not going at top speed; but, if he is either or both, then it follows that the would-be tackler must be extra fast to be able to "increase speed" at such a moment. A small tackler is more difficult to hand-off, especially if he is good with his feet as well as strong on his pins, than a big one. Any large clumsy forward is more easily floored by the hand-off than is a C. N. Lowe or was an E. T. Morgan; and it is easier to hand-off a full-back, whom you have met, than a three-quarter or forward who has "come across"; for he has, in a sense, caught you up and, therefore, must be going faster than you are. I hope to return to this fascinating topic of the duel *à l'outrance* in Rugger.

This paper I propose to complete with a couple of instances of the well timed giving of passes. Most people who have played or watched much football have seen what, for want of a better term, has been described as a "flying" tackle in the centre of the field, when either a stand-off or a centre has been

grassed by this means, which is of the genus man-and-ball tackle. Graham-Davies of Guy's Hospital, trying to prevent Bekker from getting in his pass, shows such a tackle being attempted. Davies has missed the passer's arms owing to being late by that moment of time which makes just all the difference. The result makes one consider that Graham-Davies is missing his vocation in going in for medicine. He should be in the Royal Air Force, for, to be sure, the illustration shows a somewhat startling form of the bedside manner!

Finally, Aslett of Sandhurst, although obviously in the grip of C. M. Usher, has "done his job" before entering whence there is no escape. The pass to his fellow-Sandhurst centre was correctly given and taken at the right height, and, though purists may blame the taker for being chest square to the ball, I disagree. Had he left the taking entirely to hands and arms, the elusive ball might have found its way through. At the risk of an ever so slight checking of speed, as must occur if a taker turns from his hips towards the giver of a pass, he has made sure of the ball. And, as has been often said: "What backs can win a match without the ball?"



A FLYING TACKLE BY GRAHAM-DAVIES ON BEKKER.

Bekker has been brought up dead short in his stride, but has got in a splendid pass all the same, as is evident from a glance at his face—looking back. The shadow of the taker's hands and of the ball are plainly visible.

CORRESPONDENCE

CONCENTRATE ON THE DESOLATE WASTES.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—It has been stated in Government publications that it was estimated that 750,000 ex-Service men would be likely to require land. Although nearly two years have elapsed since the signing of the Armistice, only approximately 5,000 ex-Service men have been actually settled. The following facts are significant: (1) The Land Reclamation Department has been closed down; (2) there are agrarian troubles in Scotland because men cannot get land; (3) there is an increasing amount of unemployment; (4) in spite of the many millions which have been paid away in unemployment donations, nothing very tangible has been done in the way of bringing back land into cultivation; (5) the cost of living at the time of writing is up about 160 per cent.; (6) officialdom is increasing. Soon after the signing of the Armistice, in one of the well known agricultural journals I put forward the following suggestions as a solution of these national difficulties. Have the Government tried the practicability of them, or will they try them? (a) The setting up of an impartial committee of practical business men to control reclamation. (b) The formation of a land reclamation army working on a voluntary and co-operative basis. (c) The acquisition of

satisfied by a certificate of the County Agricultural Committee that the cottage is needed for the occupation of a person engaged on necessary farm work, e.g., a new stockman.—Ed.]

FLOWERS OF ST. MARTIN'S SUMMER.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—A list of the plants I found in flower on October 29th in a row of cottage gardens at Ringshall, near Berkhamsted, may be of interest to your readers. Here are the names: Lavatera, pentstemon, rose, nasturtium, viola, pelargonium, primula, lobelia, carnation, phlox, wallflower, antirrhinum, dahlia, gaillardia, jasmine, arabis, fuchsia, coreopsis, nigella, campanula, spur valerian, sidalcea, borage, Rose of Sharon. Many of the above were in full summer luxuriance.—F. S. ARNOLD.

BONFIRES IN THE AUTUMN.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—It is a common sight at this time of the year to see bonfires burning all over the countryside. The farmers find the best way of dealing with the weeds from the land is to pile them up and make a bonfire of them, which also destroys the insects on them, and at the same time the ashes serve as a manure for the ground. I send you a photograph of one of these autumn



A NOVEMBER BON FIRE.

waste land suitable for land reclamation on which owners are making no attempt to bring it back into cultivation. Such land to be bought at pre-war values. The matters of land reclamation, land settlement and unemployment are inextricably bound up together and it is useless to shut our eyes to the fact.—A. LANCASTER SMITH.

"TENANT OR SERVANT?"

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I have read with much interest your answer to a correspondent's question on this subject. Perhaps you will help me with a problem of a rather similar description. I have a stockman in my employment—a respectable and steady man, but defective in skill and of weak eyesight, which is against him in the necessary duty of cleaning some of the dairy utensils. I find it necessary to give him notice. He occupies a cottage belonging to me. The rent is included in his weekly wages. Can I give him notice? Or may he claim that until, or unless, I can find for him or he for himself "alternative accommodation" he must remain a fixture? I have no other place for him, nor other work, and he occupies the cottage appropriate to the work of a stockman.—SMALL FARMER OF HIS OWN LAND.

[If it was a condition of the stockman's employment that he should reside in the cottage, he occupies as a servant, not as a tenant, and must leave when his service terminates. Even if the man is a tenant, possession can be obtained without the necessity of showing that there is alternative accommodation, if the court be

bonfires. In this case it is the hedge trimmings that are being burned, after the hedges have been cut. I hope you may like to publish it in COUNTRY LIFE.—C. M. BALLARD.

A PEDIGREE PIG SHOW AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Having observed for some time, since I have been breeding pedigree pigs, that many small breeders have difficulty in bringing the merits of the pigs they breed before the buying public, I have given considerable thought to the remedy for this difficulty. In many cases I have been able to help those breeding from my own herd stock by finding a market for them myself, but this did not satisfy me, as it was not sufficiently far reaching. However, when at the Tunbridge Wells Agricultural Show this year I was much struck by the great possibilities these grounds offered for a magnificent pedigree pig show and sale. For one reason, the close proximity of the station to the show ground, and secondly, the magnificent lines of permanent loose boxes just ideal for pigs. To think was to act, and after discussion with Dr. Rowlands, Mr. Dyson Laurie and Brigadier-General Symons—a member of the Tunbridge Wells Show Committee—an arrangement has been made to hold a sale and show of pedigree Large Black and pedigree Middle White pigs there in early June next year. General Symons has agreed to act as Hon. Secretary. And thus an opportunity is created at the door of the breeders in Kent, Surrey and Sussex to show what pigs they can breed and then sell them

on the show ground by auction. The immense advantages accruing to unknown breeders through placing their breeding efforts before a large number of pig judges and buyers at small expense need no emphasising. Conditions of the sale are not yet all settled, but they will be unique in protecting the buyer. Nothing but pigs typical of the breeds will be allowed to be shown and those sold in-pig will be guaranteed. The first show and sale will be limited to about 140 pigs, and as far as possible entry acceptance will be spread broadcast so as to give the maximum number of breeders the chance to show their skill. Of course it will be appreciated that a few breeders are willing to fill up the whole of the available entries, but the scheme is to be run with the idea of giving to new and small breeders a chance to sell their animals equally against the old established herds. It is desirable for all who wish to enter to write at once to Brigadier-General Symons, Bricklayer Manor, Ticehurst, Sussex. The classes are: (a) Boar farrowed 1920. (b) Boar farrowed 1921. (c) Sow under twelve months on June 1st, 1921. (d) Sow over twelve months on June 1st, 1921. Breeders should write at once and say how many entries they wish to have as these may be allotted *pro rata*. Many more than can be accommodated have already been heard of, so it is hoped no more will be asked for than are really wanted; and remember, good pigs only, that will do the herd good and fetch a good average at the sale. This is a chance—thanks to the Tunbridge Wells and South-Eastern Agricultural Society—that no other part of the country has ever had, to give immense advantages to so many pig-breeders. It may easily be the start of the greatest pedigree pig centre in the United Kingdom.—S. F. EDGE.

THE SEASON.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I send herewith some wild strawberries picked on the 3rd inst. on the north side of Dartmoor at an elevation of fully 500ft. above sea level. You will note their unusual size, and on the 27th ult. I picked several at a little lower level considerably larger than these. The banks are still full of strawberry blossoms. At the same time I saw several wasps busy around some ivy blossoms.—E. A. R.

[The strawberries sent afford a wonderful testimony to the mildness of the season. It is astonishing to find ripe and exceptionally large berries at an altitude of 500ft. on the north side of Dartmoor in the month of November.—Ed.]

THE FREAKISH ACTION OF LIGHTNING.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—In your issue of October 30th Mr. Robert Gurney supposes that the injury to a saw was caused by the freakish action of lightning, and undoubtedly he is right. I have seen a tall flagstaff in the centre of a large sandy space in New Zealand served in much the same way by lightning. The flash was actually seen to strike the flagstaff, breaking off about six feet of the top, and shivering the rest into tiny splinters, leaving a stump in the ground, the top of which was shredded out until it resembled a huge paint brush. Spectators state that the top of the flagstaff went first and that the rest of the pole seemed to explode and fly off into fragments that were scattered all around the portion of the stump in the ground. There was not the slightest sign of burning, and all the fragments were shivered into splinters running the length of the woody fibre, all very fine, but of varying lengths, from an inch or less to several feet. Another freakish action took place in a carpenter's shop. On closing it for the dinner hour the tools were arranged in two lines down a carpenter's bench, a coat being laid between the lines but none of the tools touching it. During the dinner hour there was a tremendous thunder-storm, and the lightning was seen to strike the shop and burn a large hole in the wall. After the storm was over the carpenter and his men returned to the shop and found that the lightning had struck the bench, and apparently the electric current had divided and burnt all the handles of the tools, and seared a broad burnt patch under them on the surface of the bench. Then the lightning had torn a hole through the back wall and vanished. Strange to say, the coat was not scorched or burnt in any way; the carpenter's shop was built of wood.—H. T. C.

HOT-WATER PLATES.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—When and where did the hot-water plate originate? At the Cock Tavern, in Fleet Street, is one of Crown Derby, the design consisting of a basket of flowers and a Chinese pagoda in colours of red, blue and yellow. It has two hinged handles, and the metal portion is pewter, bearing on the back several marks. The first is an oval, containing two cocks, facing each other, with the words "Cocks—London." In adjacent circles are two bottles, below each of which is a large X. The pewter is also impressed with three shields, the first containing a lion passant, the second a leopard's head. These are the marks of the Pewterers' Company, and fix the date of manufacture at 1635, or earlier, since it was in that year the Company ceased to stamp pewter.

—J. LANDEAR LUCAS.

AN AUSTRALIAN PET FOR THE PRINCE OF WALES.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Among the various wild creatures that were presented to the Prince of Wales during his Colonial tour one of the most interesting was the *koa'a*, or native-bear, shown in the illustration with the Marine who looked after it. It did not survive the voyage home. It was impossible to get a supply of suitable food



A KOALA GIVEN TO THE PRINCE.

for it, and it is doubtful if another living specimen will ever be seen in England. This curious marsupial is now getting so rare that it is in danger of becoming extinct, and that soon. Yet it has been reported in the *Victorian Naturalist* that not long since several of them were sold to a tourist at half-a-crown each. The *koala* is remarkable for its fore-paws, in which both the forefingers and the thumbs are opposable to the remainder of the digits. Its cheeks are provided with pouches for the storage of food, while the ears are of exceptional size and thickly fringed with hair. It has no tail, and its fur is thick and soft and mostly grey in colour. It is arboreal in habits and feeds principally upon the leaves of the blue gum tree.—B.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE LANDING NET.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—The landing net, though no great burden in itself, adds to the amount of the fisherman's kit, and the man who fishes all day cannot avoid having to carry a good deal. Sandwiches for lunch and cake for tea, together with a thermos and a small separate bottle for milk, though modest enough in the way of provender, yet weigh quite a lot when added together. Then if rain is likely, a short waterproof coat has to be taken; all this in addition to the fishing bag, rod, reel, etc. When one is in exuberant youth it matters little, but as the years go on any practical method of reducing weight is hailed with delight. Even in its neatest folding form a landing net is awkward

when brambles or bushes have to be penetrated and railings climbed. A very efficient miniature gaff can be made by the fisherman himself, and while it is a great deal lighter and handier than a net, makes an excellent crook for pulling down



A FUNERAL PROCESSION ON INISHMAAN.

branches to disentangle a caught up cast. Quite a light cane suffices for the shaft, while the hook is made out of an ordinary steel knitting needle bent to the right shape over a gas flame and then filed to a three-cornered bayonet point. With this little contrivance there is no difficulty in getting out a half-pound trout. If the water is easy to reach with low banks, the shaft can be quite short, and a useful length for the gaff is 32ins. over all, while a longer one of 48ins. can be taken when more reach is required. The 48in. gaff weighs 4oz. against 16oz. for a landing net complete with 41in. handle. The short gaff can be hooked into the top buttonhole of the coat, where it is not at all in the way. The longer one can be thrown over any obstacle that has to be negotiated and treated with a roughness that an expensive landing net could hardly endure. A small piece of carborundum is useful for keeping the point at the necessary needle-like sharpness, and the cork out of a medicine bottle is big enough to serve as a protector.—FLEUR-DE-LYS.

THE UBIQUITOUS BOY SCOUT.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I notice an illustration of Ypres in a recent issue of *COUNTRY LIFE*. As I have but lately returned from a fortnight's tour of the Flanders battle front with fifty Scouts from my troop (Lickey, Birmingham) I think you might like to publish this unique photograph. It shows the Scouts grouped round a German gun on the Ostend promenade. We visited Ostend, Zeebrugge, Nieuport, Dixmude, Ypres, and through to Courtrai on the Menin Road (as well as Ghent, Termonde, Antwerp, Brussels and Waterloo), so that I think the Scouts fairly earned the epithet I applied to them of "ubiquitous."—W. A. HOWITT.



BIRMINGHAM BOY SCOUTS AROUND A GERMAN GUN AT OSTEND.

FROM THE ARRAN ISLANDS.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I send you a picture of a funeral procession on wild and rugged Inishmaan, on

of the Arran Islands standing at the mouth of Galway Bay. The primitive inhabitants all wear homespuns. They know very little of the goings-on of the outside world. On the occasion of a funeral the inhabitants turn out in force, the women wearing red woollen petticoats over their heads after the local custom. Arrived at the cemetery they "keen" over the graves of their own departed, the relatives of the person who has just died alone encircling the newly dug grave.—A. W. C.

IS THE SEA BUCKTHORN POISONOUS?

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Referring to Mr. Peacock's remark's on wild birds and the purging or sea buckthorn, can it be that its berries are poisonous, and so remain untouched by birds even in a hard winter? Mr. W. J. Bean, in his well known work on trees and shrubs, says: "However pressed by hunger, birds will not eat the berries, which are filled with an intensely acid, yellowish juice." So far as the alleged poisonous properties of the berries are concerned, there is an amusing reference which I have seen quoted from Rousseau's "Reveries VII Promenade." After eating a quantity of berries, which he found "very pleasant," he was warned that they were poisonous. "Nevertheless," he said, "I felt as I feel now, that every natural production that is pleasant to the taste cannot be harmful, unless, perhaps, through excess." I confess, however, that I kept a watch on myself for the rest of the day, but beyond a certain uneasiness; I felt no ill-effects. I supped very well, slept better, and rose in the morning in perfect health, having swallowed the evening before some fifteen or twenty of the berries of this terrible Hippophae, a small quantity of which is poisonous, as they told me at Grenoble the next day.—H. C.

THE ESTATE MARKET

GOOD RESULTS OF PRIVATE TREATY

THE temporary slowing down of auctions through the recent strike concentrated attention, as was predicted in these columns, upon private negotiation, and a plentiful crop of sales is the result. Most of the sales now formally announced have been effected within the last few days, and they should stimulate owners who wish to realise to put property into the market now conditions have again become somewhat more settled.

THE TAY PALACE.

"... fam'd Breadalbane opens to my view.

The Tay, meand'ring sweet in infant pride;
The palace, rising on its verdant side."

Burns wrote these and their conjoined lines over the chimney-piece of Breadalbane Arms Hotel, Kenmore, in 1787, and "the palace," so superbly placed, that aroused him to song was, of course, Taymouth Castle.

The eastern portion of Lord Breadalbane's estate for sale, as already announced in these columns, extends to 57,335 acres. Before Taymouth Castle, on the same site, stood the Castle of Balloch, built by Sir Colin Campbell in 1570. At the close of the eighteenth century Balloch was pulled down, and in 1801 the foundation stone of Taymouth Castle was laid, and the building finished six years later. The Chinese suite of rooms was added in 1826 by Atkinson, architect of Scone Palace, and in 1838 David Bryce began building the west wing, which was occupied by Queen Victoria on the occasion of her visit to Taymouth in 1842. Of the interior of Taymouth Castle it is enough to say that the Italian decoration of the drawing-room ceiling alone took seven years to complete. The castle is in all respects worthy of its setting—some of the sublimest scenery in the Highlands. As a sporting property, either in its entirety or in the lots into which it has been divided for purposes of auction, Taymouth Castle can hardly be equalled in Perthshire. Pages of the illustrated particulars of sale are filled with tabulated and other statements of the game bags, and the loch and river fishing is among the finest in the British Isles. Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley will offer Taymouth Castle at Hanover Square on December 9th.

THE DUCHY KENNINGTON SITES.

THE 9th of next month has been fixed for another sale, notable by reason of the character of the property and its ownership, 8 acres of building land on the Duchy of Cornwall estate at Kennington, on behalf of the Council of the Prince of Wales.

Angrove House, Crowborough, the property of Mr. H. Wynne Finch, has been sold privately by Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley, and the auction, advertised for Wednesday last, did not take place. The firm has also sold Berwick Manor, an historical house at Lympne for £4,325.

Mrs. Smith Cunningham has decided to dispose of Orroland and Barlocco, Kirkcudbright, and has instructed Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley to offer it for sale. Orroland House, on the Solway Cliffs, commands an uninterrupted view over the sea, and the grounds run down to the shore. The estate extends to 1,918 acres, good bags of partridges, hares and wildfowl being obtained. The rental amounts to £1,495.

SOUTH WALES SALES.

THREE or four months ago the bulk of the selling of Welsh landed properties was confined to the north, but now it is the turn of the south. Cefn Mably and 1,200 acres have been resold to Lord Tredegar by the buyers at the recent auction. Sales approaching £150,000 have been carried out on the Crawshay-Bailey estates in Monmouthshire, and over 1,700 acres belonging to Lord Glanusk have changed hands at Crickhowell for roundly £45,000 through Messrs. Stephenson and Alexander of Cardiff. A large area in and around Abergavenny has also been sold through Messrs. Newland, Hunt and Co. Local rumour has it that sales are contemplated at St. Donat's Castle, Llantwit Major, a mansion noteworthy for its splendid examples of the work of Grinling Gibbons.

A HEREFORD WORTHY.

IN St. David's, Much Dewchurch, lie the remains of a former owner of The Mynd, a Herefordshire estate for sale by Messrs. John D. Wood and Co. This was John Pye, originally Ap Hugh or Pugh, whose father early in the sixteenth century married Agnes, daughter of Roger Ap Andrew. John Pye was a family man and much married, for "as it appeareth upon his towmbie in the church of Muchdew-churche . . . in all hee had 64 children." Also "he did the 24 actes of chivalrye, wich few men could do them all," and "was at Rome and Jerusalem and at the Sepulcher." The chronicler is silent on the point how many of the sixty-four remained to perpetuate his pious memory when, at 106 years of age, he passed hence. Apparently few, for within a hundred years the males of the family were all dead and gone, and one Richard Symons, an ancestor of the present vendor, bought Mynd and soon afterwards greatly enlarged it.

A DUCAL AUCTION.

TOWARDS the end of this year the Duke of Devonshire will dispose of 400 acres of land at Tideswell, Derbyshire, more than anything else in order to give the small holders and other tenants the opportunity to acquire their holdings.

ESTATE AGENTS HONOURED.

SIR JOHN OAKLEY, head of the firm of Messrs. Daniel Smith, Oakley and Garrard, which has been established for considerably more than a century, was president of the Surveyors' Institution in its jubilee year, and to commemorate the fact, all the more notable in that he is the son of a former president of the Institution, the late Mr. Christopher Oakley, the members commissioned Mr. R. G. Eves to paint his portrait. They also asked Mr. Lance Calkin to paint a portrait of another former president, Mr. Howard Martin, who was head of the firm of Thurgood and Martin, now Thurgood, Martin and Eve, until his recent appointment as the first of the new Official Arbitrators under the Acquisition of Land Act, 1919. The two portraits were unveiled on Monday by the present president, Mr. John Willmot of Birmingham.

NOTABLE PRIVATE SALES.

SALES amounting to some hundreds of thousands of pounds have been concluded in the last week or two by Messrs. Daniel Smith, Oakley and Garrard. They include the remaining lots of Embley Park, Clare Park and outlying portions of Brockwood Park, West Meon. The latter property, 920 acres, realised £24,000. A City company's farms in Kent, Essex, Beds and Herts, 2,000 acres, fetched just over £45,000. Farms, mainly near Knebworth and Buntingford, about 900 acres, have been sold for nearly £60,000, and another group of transactions, representing £40,000, includes Bentworth Lodge and 200 acres, and Huntsland and 100 acres at Crawley Down. Altogether the sales aggregate 18 square miles of land, and the firm points out that, in this instance as in so many others, the number of individual owners of the properties has been multiplied tenfold by the realisations.

DUKE OF BEDFORD'S LONDON LAND

THE price to be paid by the Government for what Mr. Fisher has rather disparagingly termed "the land behind the British Museum," for the use of the University of London, is £425,000. For that not inconsiderable sum the Bloomsbury site, intersected by public thoroughfares and of doubtful suitability in other respects, is at the option of the Government for the new headquarters of the University. It is impossible to avoid contrasting it in many of its aspects with the Foundling Hospital land and buildings, so recently illustrated in COUNTRY LIFE, and with the magnificent Adam mansion and ample acreage of Ken Wood, Lord Mansfield's seat at Hampstead Heath, also described and illustrated in these columns, both of which properties have been much discussed as admirable locations for the new buildings of the University. If the University is finally placed on "the land behind the British Museum" it will exercise a potent influence on the course of the future development of Bloomsbury,

which, as a whole, should benefit enormously from the placing of the University in its midst. The reflex action of the use of the Bloomsbury site for the purpose in question will also inevitably benefit buyers of land on the Doughty estate near by in Holborn, now in the market, through Messrs. Nicholas, on behalf of Sir Joseph Tichborne. The first section of the Doughty estate will be submitted on November 26th.

MISCELLANEOUS SALES.

BESIDES Sandywell Park, privately sold, Messrs. Bruton, Knowles and Co. report transactions, on that and other estates, totalling £33,000. Nearly £30,000 worth of Notts farms have been sold, in the eighth section of the Cust estates, by Messrs. Driver, Jonas and Co. Lord Clinton has disposed of Melbury Farm, Parkham, North Devon, 605 acres, through Messrs. Alfred Savill and Sons. Country houses sold by Messrs. Harding and Harding, include The Custards, Lyndhurst, The Bungalow, Medstead, and Wolmer Lodge, Liss. Messrs. James Styles and Whitlock have sold 54 acres for Sir Gerald Shuckburgh, at Napton, since the auction withdrawal at £4,500, and 15 acres at New Bilton, Rugby, to Messrs. Willans and Robinson.

Colonel Robert Logan has given £5,450 for Weycroft, a fifteenth century farmhouse and 105 acres, near Axminster, through Messrs. W. R. J. Greenslade and Co. Sir James Kingston Fowler has sold The Vineyards, 10 acres, near Beaulieu Abbey, through Messrs. Edwin Fear and Walker, who will shortly sell the contents of the house.

Remaining sections, 4,500 acres, of the Duke of Grafton's Wakefield estate, will be submitted at Northampton next month, by Messrs. Peirce and Thorpe. The Hindhead house, Undershaw, and three acres, built twenty-one years ago, is to be sold in London on November 30th, by Messrs. Hampton and Sons and Mr. Reginald C. S. Evennett, for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

HOLME HALL, 1066-1920.

HOLME HALL, thirteen miles from Selby and eighteen from York, for sale privately, is a property of historical interest, and a few years ago the Rev. F. C. B. Darwent, when curate of the parish, prepared a monograph about it. Holme Hall belongs to Mrs. F. D. Harford, who inherited it from her father, the late Mr. Henry Stourton, a descendant of Lord Stourton, who acquired the estate in the eighteenth century by his marriage to the heiress of the fifth and last Lord Langdale. Otherwise than by hereditary descent or marriage, Holme Hall has only once changed hands since the Norman Conquest. This was when it was sold in 1633 to Lord Marmaduke Langdale by Sir W. Constable, "the Regicide," whose portrait still hangs in the dining-room.

The village and manor belonged to Harold, last of the Saxon kings, and after the battle of Stamford Bridge, Yorkshire, they fell into the hands of Gilbert Tyson, standard bearer of William I. Through the marriage of his grand-daughter sprang the Constables of Flamborough, who owned the manor for centuries. Holme was sequestered by Henry VIII, after the Pilgrimage of Grace, but restored to the Constable family in 1628.

RIVERSIDE HOUSES.

POULETT LODGE, formerly the property of Lord Poulett, a well known riverside mansion at Twickenham, has been sold by Messrs. Warmington, in conjunction with Messrs. Penningtons. The original house, owned by M. Chauvigny, the French Ambassador, was burned down in 1734.

Bucklands, between Teddington and Hampton Wick, has been sold by Messrs. Giddy and Giddy, who have disposed of The Cottage, Sonning; Orkney Cottage, Taplow, and other houses at Ascot, Sunningdale and Maidenhead, as well as an Alresford house and 160 acres, known as Ropley Grove.

The late Mr. Nat Gould's house, Newhaven, Bedford, near Feltham, and an acre of garden, will be sold in London on November 22nd by Messrs. Dudley W. Harris and Co., for the executors. The same firm is also acting for Mrs. Brown Potter, on the same date, in offering Ye Olde Bridge House, and a couple of acres, near to Staines Bridge. ARBITER.

LILIES FOR AUTUMN PLANTING

LILIES OF EASY CULTIVATION.

THE loveliness of the lily is unsurpassed; it stands pre-eminent among hardy plants. Happily, there are many who are impressed by the stately habit, gorgeous colour, curvation of perianth, fragrance and simple beauty of the lily. Not only is the lily the most beautiful of bulbous plants, but it is among the most easily cultivated.

The Evil of Transplanting.—Some hardy plants—more especially the vigorous growing—are improved by occasional transplanting. Not so with the lily. All lilies, without exception, are impatient of root disturbance. So long as they are doing well—leave them alone. But transplanting in the garden is sometimes a necessary evil. New borders have to be made, and if it so happens that lily bulbs must be removed, this is the time to do it. Unlike the bulbs of daffodils and tulips, the scaly bulbs of the lily must never be allowed to get dry; if unable to replant them at once, let them be stored in soil and planted out on the first favourable occasion. In nine gardens out of ten it is the practice to plant lilies in the spring. The reason is not far to seek. It is not until January that we receive the imported bulbs from Japan, and, in consequence, planting takes place from January onwards, so long as the weather is open. But the bulbs do far better if planted



LILIUM TIGRINUM.

The good old tiger lily always holds its place among the best flowers of middle summer, when there are but few others that can match its colouring, which may be described as a mixture of salmon, apricot and orange. Its spotted petals, sharply rolled back, and the bold lines of its strongly divergent stamens, with their nicely poised anthers covered with dark rusty pollen, combine to make a flower that, however oddly and dearly familiar, is always of renewed interest on close examination. It is one of the lilies that form bulbils in the axils of the leaves, from which young plants may be grown on. There is a taller growing form with downy stems known as *Fortunei*, but it is hardly an improvement on the type, whose clear cut, polished stems seem to be more in character with the nature of the plant.

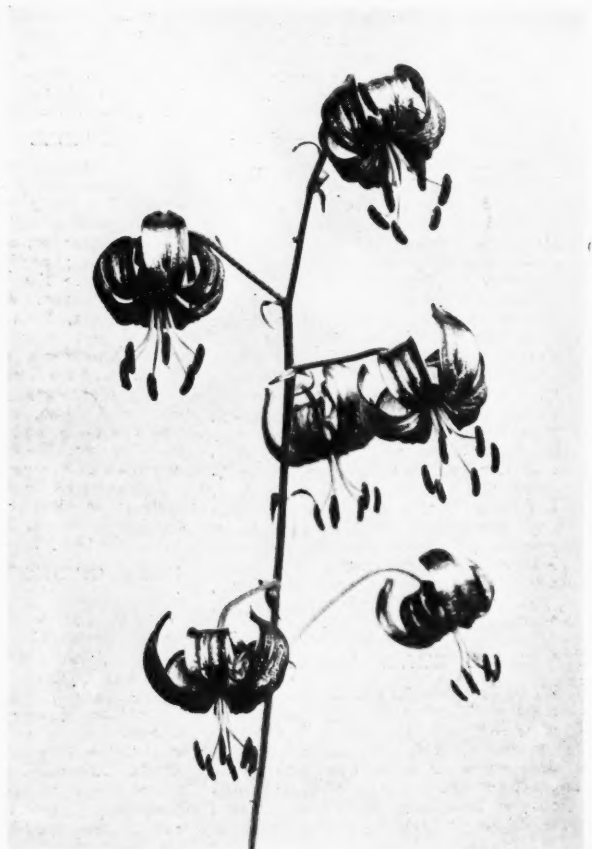
in autumn, and here follows a brief selection of English-grown bulbs that may be purchased now for autumn planting.

Lilium Regale.—If only one lily can be grown this should receive the place of honour. A noble lily recently introduced from China. The buds are tipped with rose, and the open, well expanded, trumpet shaped flowers are pure white, shaded yellow towards the base. It is hardy, most easily grown in the open border and will grow nearly 7ft. high.

Other home-grown lilies worthy of special note are: The Madonna Lily—no garden is complete without it; *L. Henryi*, soft orange yellow, perhaps the easiest of all to grow, and, unlike most lilies, it seeds freely; *L. monadelphum Szovitzianum*, a handsome lily of great beauty, flowers clear citron yellow, spotted black, *L. Brownii*; *L. chalcidonicum*, the scarlet Turk's Cap lily of cottage gardens; *L. croceum*, testaceum and the beautiful tiger lily, *L. tigrinum splendens*. H. C.



LILIUM CANDIDUM—KNOWN AS THE MADONNA LILY.
It claims a place in every garden.



LILIUM MARTAGON CATANI.

The ordinary *L. Martagon*, the purple turncap of cottage gardens, is one of the oldest of garden plants in the type European form. *L. Martagon dalmaticum* is a taller and stouter plant of rather fuller colouring, of which the subject of the illustration, the variety *Catani*, has a claret colour of great depth and richness. There is a white martagon, which is a plant of great beauty and would show to much advantage if placed in some quiet place grouped near or among patches of the type and of *dalmaticum*.

£600 SMALL-HOLDERS' COTTAGES IN ESSEX

AMONG the many phases of the national housing problem none is more beset with difficulties than the task placed upon county councils under the Land Settlement Act, 1919, of equipping the small holdings created under the Act. Not only are the labour and transport troubles of building in a scattered way in remote rural areas vastly greater than those encountered in building groups of houses in towns and villages, but the need of getting settlers promptly on the land for cultivation's sake renders speed a matter essential to a fulfilment of the conditions. Moreover, the working of the Act in its financial bearings depends on certain initial calculations which have been vitiated by the enormous rise in building costs. High cost renders it utterly impossible (if all approved ex-Service applicants for land are to be settled) that equipment should be provided on the ample scale which at first seemed to come within the handsome sum set aside by Parliament. A proportion of applicants might so be settled, but at the expense of excluding others equally worthy. These are the main heads of the problem that has to be faced by the county councils. The accompanying illustrations show the solution, as worked out by one of them.

The photographs are of cottages erected by the Essex County Council at Beaumont—in that remote peninsula lying between the estuaries of the Stour and Blackwater. Twenty-three cottages have been built with commendable celerity and at a very moderate cost, by direct employment of labour. Sand and ballast were dug on the site; other bulky materials were conveyed by barge from the Medway, an old stone wharf on a tidal inlet near the estate having been used for unloading. Considerable ingenuity has been shown by the County Architect, Mr. John Stuart, F.R.I.B.A., in organising the work for easy and speedy progress with a limited staff; chiefly by eliminating trades, reduction of plant, and simplifying processes.

The erection resolves into five main stages: (1) Labourers strip and level the sites and form a thin cement concrete raft which subsequently serves as a clean working platform for the succeeding trades. (2) Bricklayers build the central brick chimney, using a scaffold which needs four poles only. (3) Carpenters erect wood framing, lay joists, rafters, etc., and fix windows. (4) Thatching (or tiles) and elm weatherboarding are fixed. (5) Floors, internal linings, and finishings generally are applied. Attention may be drawn to the fact that the complete elimination of the plasterer's trade, which is a matter almost of necessity in the difficult circumstances of present-day building, does not prevent the interiors being subsequently plastered out, if this is found desirable when times are easier. With regard to the use of thatch on some of the cottages,



Elm-boarded and thatched.



With a tiled roof (originally intended to be thatched).

SINGLE COTTAGES AT BEAUMONT.

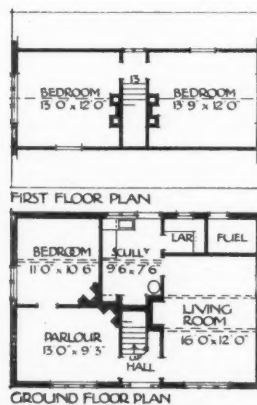


Showing the timber frame.



The brick chimneys.

PAIR OF COTTAGES AT BEAUMONT IN COURSE OF ERECTION.



TYPICAL PLANS.

it was originally intended that all the single detached cottages should be so roofed, but it is understood that in practice difficulties arose as to getting this done speedily enough, and tiles (costing virtually the same) were substituted.

The low price of these cottages is not attributable so much to their timber construction—which was adopted chiefly for speed—as to their economical basis of design in the relationship of area covered to accommodation enclosed. Elm timber and boarding were used because the locality is an elm country and the material could be obtained without much difficulty. The elm is used in an ordinary way, with no special methods, and appears likely to be reasonably satisfactory, though the feathered boarding is perhaps a trifle thin.

The plans show that the accommodation is not unduly pinched, the rooms being well shaped and considerably larger than are now commonly afforded; the structure is a soundly framed one, so designed as to secure rigidity with minimum sizes of timber; while the appearance (particularly of the thatched cottages) conforms very closely to a pleasant old type of widespread occurrence in the Eastern Counties, where it

need not be said—timber building is no new departure. It is worth mentioning that on another estate of the Essex County Council where the building scheme was proceeded with on normal lines as to execution and method, the cottages, started in advance of the first inception of the Beaumont scheme, are still in a very early stage of growth.

The approximate cost of the cottages already finished at Beaumont is £600 each—very little in excess of that at which a sectional Army hut may be bought, transported, re-erected and adapted, to give less accommodation in a manner which is at once a makeshift and an eyesore.

E.

HOW THE EXPENSIVE YEARLINGS OF 1919 HAVE FARED IN 1920

THE COMING OF GRANELY

ONCE upon a time it was considered something sensational for a yearling to make 3,000 guineas or more at auction. That was in pre-war days when the sovereign was worth a sovereign, and not in post-war times when there were in existence men who had made big fortunes quickly and were ready to try their luck on the Turf, when, too, the sovereign was not worth ten shillings. Reflecting upon this I thought, at this fag end of the season, it would not be without interest to note how the high-priced yearlings of 1919 have fared in their first season of racing. I find there were twenty-five yearlings sold in 1919 that made 3,000 guineas or over, and so far as I can trace only half-a-dozen of them have won! The percentage of winners to losers, considering the big prices paid for individuals of immaculate breeding and good looks, is, in my opinion, far lower than it should have been. Indeed, one is forced to draw up an indictment against the high-priced yearling, a proceeding that will naturally offend the breeder of high class stock, even though he may be convinced that the buyer with the heavy money bags has no choice, if buy he must, about buying those from the best mares and sired by the most successful stallions.

Now let me glance for a moment at the half dozen winners. One was the second highest priced lot—the grey Tetrarch colt from Lisma, afterwards known as Syrian Prince, for which Mr. Watkin Williams paid 8,000 guineas. He finished last for the Middle Park Plate and he certainly has not fulfilled the extraordinary promise he showed as a yearling, but it is on record that he won first time out at Ascot. We skip over ten long-priced ones ranging from 6,500 guineas to 5,100 guineas, until we come to the grey Tetrarch colt from Allash, subsequently named Trash. He has won at Goodwood and at Newmarket, and Mr. Joseph Watson was obviously well advised when he went to 5,000 guineas to buy him. The same owner can congratulate himself, too, on the purchase of Lemonora, the tall chestnut colt by Lemberg from Honora, for which he gave 3,300 guineas. He has the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster to his credit. Mr. Charles Garland has got a race out of the bay filly Clear Trace, by Tracery from Ste. Claire II, for which he gave 4,300 guineas; Sir H. Cunliffe-Owen can claim a win with Eaglehawk (the bay colt by Spearmin from Countess Zia), for which he paid 4,500 guineas; and finally—it occurred only a week ago—Mr. James White produced his Orby-Grania colt, named Granely to win first time out at Newbury. Those are the six winners out of twenty-five, and three of them were bred at the Sledmere Stud, namely, Trash, Lemonora and Clear Trace. Granely was bred by Mr. Ernest Bellaney in Ireland; Syrian Prince by Sir John Robinson at the Worksop Manor Stud, and Eaglehawk at the National Stud.

I would like to touch on Granely later in these notes. For the moment it may not be without interest to note the fate of the remainder of the high-priced ones. For instance, it should be fairly well known that the 11,500 guinea colt Westward Ho! (by Swynford from Blue Tit), has never been seen on a racecourse. He developed hock trouble, but it is said he will be produced next season and very much all right too! His owner, Lord Glanely, also gave 5,400 guineas for a filly by Valens, out of Dodragh, but she met with an accident at exercise very early in her career and had to be destroyed. Sir H. Cunliffe Owen's Rockroi (by Prince Palatine from Rock Garden), cost 6,500 guineas, but he has consistently failed, while Tetrabazzia (6,000 guineas), by The Tetrarch from Abbazia, purchased by

Mr. Watson, has only been out once to lose by a head. I have heard nothing, either as a runner or winner, of the Orby-Proponent colt, for which 6,000 guineas was paid, and exactly the same observation applies to Mr. J. P. Horning's filly by Santoi from Fortuna (5,900 guineas). Precious, the colt by The Tetrarch from Zoara, for which Lady Cunliffe-Owen paid 5,200 guineas, the chestnut filly by Swynford from Agacella (Major Courthauld, 5,100 guineas), and Mr. Bower Ismay's colt by Prince Palatine from Carita, for which he had to go to 5,100 guineas. Mr. Watkin Williams got Nymphida by The Tetrarch from Enone for 5,100 guineas and though she has shown promise, she has not actually won. It would only weary to go on, but the fact remains that other stock by The Tetrarch, Bayardo, Glasgerion, Swynford and Black Jester have failed to fulfil the very exalted hopes of their buyers when over a year ago at Doncaster they gave immense sums for the rising generations of thoroughbreds.



W. A. Rouch. WESTWOOD HO! BY SWYNFORD—BLUE TIT. Copyright.
A yearling for which 11,500 guineas was paid by Lord Glanely in 1919, and which has not yet seen a racecourse.

If also we go lower down the list until we come to those that made into four figures—that is below 3,000 guineas and 1,000 guineas or over—we must still be struck by the comparatively few winners all, of course, pointing to the great lottery of yearling buying. The Middle Park Plate was won by Monarch, a privately bred colt; Humorist, who was second, was bred by his owner, Mr. J. B. Joel; while the third, Polemarch, (winner of the Gimcrack Stakes), was bred by his owner, the Marquess of Londonderry. Lemonora, as I have already stated, was Sledmere bred and he has the Champagne Stakes to his credit. Milesius, the winner of the Coventry Stakes at Ascot, was bred by his owner, Mr. E. Kennedy, who, however, usually breeds for the open market, and Alan Breck, the winner of the New Stakes, was bred by his owner, Sir James Buchanan. So also at Epsom the chief two-year-old race, the "Woodcote," was won by Mr. Jack Joel's Humorist, while Polly Flinders, the winner of the National Breeders' Produce Stakes at Sandown Park, was bred by her owner, Major Giles Loder, the owner and breeder of the Derby winner, Spion Kop. As apart from these successes, we have the unbeaten Pharmacie, bought at auction as an early two-year-old by Mr. James White, who gave 2,000 guineas odd for her. He is, indeed, much to be congratulated on his purchases. Apart from Pharmacie, he has had smart winners

among his two year olds in Cylette, Cœur de Lion and Granely. The latter, as mentioned above, cost 4,800 guineas as a yearling. Cylette, by Cylgad from Queenlet (bred at Sledmere), cost 1,800 guineas, and Cœur de Lion, by Roi Herode from Lyonesse, cost 2,000 guineas. I have no doubt Granely is the best of them, and many regard him as a prospective champion, even though he has only appeared once, which was a week ago, when he vanquished a field of horses not one of which had a single win to its credit. He is a tall brown horse of marked quality, standing already sixteen hands, with a great stride, wonderful range and scope, and ideal back and loins. Nothing could have been better than the way he acquitted himself.

When a two year old appears on a racecourse for the first time he has much against him, in particular his own temperament. He is confronted for the first time with strange scenes—a big and noisy crowd, buildings, ceremonies of saddling, parading, the canter under colours to the post and the scrimmaging at the starting post. Many a colt or filly have been too absorbed in such distractions to be able to show their proper form. They have been excused on the grounds of running "green," and next time in public they have known better what to do. They have known what was expected of them. No doubt it is largely a question of temperament. The placid

horse goes undisturbed through his task and reproduces in public what he has shown in private. It was so with Granely. He had won his trials at Foxhill in such style as to suggest he was a horse of really high class. He came to Newbury and emerged from his task with as much glory as it was possible to appropriate. He moved badly in his slow paces to the post, but came back like a really good'un, soon drawing clear after showing fine speed and winning in what is called "a canter." These may be early days to talk and write about him as a horse likely to win classic honours, but it is a fact that his fortunate owner has already tipped him far and wide to win the Derby of 1921, just as his sire won the great classic race fourteen years before. He is engaged in the Two Thousand Guineas, Derby and St. Leger.

Just a few words before closing this week's notes about the Liverpool Autumn Cup to be decided to-day. The candidature of Square Measure under 9st. 2lb. will be interesting. It is a big weight but then he is a top-class handicapper and his owner, Mr. Reid Walker, thinks a great deal of him. He is convinced, for instance, he would have won the Cambridgeshire had he been allowed to run for it. We shall know more as to that after this Cup race. I think he will win and that he will succeed in giving the weight to such as Bideford and Orsan. PHILIPPOS.

ON THE GREEN

By BERNARD DARWIN.

AGGREGATES IN FOUR-BALL MATCHES.

THERE is a friend of mine, a good golfer in the best sense of the words, whom I always regard as the highest and driest of Scottish conservatives, a follower of the most ancient and rigid traditions of the game. I therefore chuckled when I heard that he had lately been compelled, and that on a classic Scottish course, to play a four-ball match. It is a thing he loathes, because he is not only a Tory, but also of a rather portly and even on occasions of comatose habit. And this was not even an ordinary four-ball match. It was one played by aggregates; that is, each hole was decided by the united scores of each pair of partners. My poor friend was persuaded into it by an American golfer who had lately played it in his own country. When questioned on the subject, he said that he had felt very tired at the end of the day and that much arithmetic was involved, but that it was "not a bad game." I remember once to have played it myself, and my impressions were very similar. I do not think I want to play it again, but it seems to me in a sense the best kind of four-ball match; not perhaps from the point of view of enjoyment, but from that of education. There is little doubt that most of us in a four-ball adopt a rather casual, hit-or-miss method. We play a number of shots without that feeling of responsibility that is always present in a foursome. Sometimes our partner has played so good a shot that we think it is no good trying to improve on it. At any rate we are inclined to be slap-dash. But in the game of aggregates this will not do. It is of no use our partner doing a three if we do a seven. We cannot get rid of responsibility and must take pains. The strain is never off our backs.

HOW AMERICANS PLAY A FOUR-BALL.

A good many people think that the decadence or, let us rather say, the temporary falling off in our amateur golf is due to the bad influence of the four-ball match. However this may be, the four-ball does lead to an inaccurate, slashing habit of play which is now rather prevalent. But, some acute reader may observe, Americans play more four-ball matches than anybody else and they are not decadent. They certainly do play four-ball matches. Except in their tournaments (and there are many of these to practise them in singles) they scarcely play anything else, but in doing so each man nearly always holes out and counts his score. I remember to have played a four-ball match on a Chicago course when there was no question of aggregates. At the first hole my partner being dead at the hole in two while I was in a bunker in the like number, I naturally picked up my ball. The onlookers seemed surprised, and my kind host explained to them that such was the British custom. Otherwise I should presumably have been suspected of picking up my ball in an uncontrollable rage with that bunker. We think the man who insists on holing out, when his score cannot affect the result of the hole, as a selfish nuisance. So, as we play, he is. But I have no doubt that educationally it is a good thing to do, and where everyone does it nobody is the worse for it. I believe the American player's practice of religiously counting his score has a steady and beneficial effect on his game, and he does not play a four-ball match in

the hit-or-miss style. Personally, however, I hope we shall go on in our old bad way. On these short winter days aggregates will not bear thinking of.

THE UNIVERSITY TEAMS.

Last year Oxford began by appearing infinitely the better of the two sides. They continued to appear so, though less markedly, right up to the University match at Sunningdale. Then, after a day's golf which it makes me dance with an indecent and partisan joy to think of even now, Cambridge won. This year Oxford again seem to be better, and I imagine that they are. Of the players whom they have lost only Mr. Burton showed any particular promise, while they are much strengthened by Mr. Malik, the Indian golfer, coming up again. Mr. Malik is a very good and graceful player. He is so sinuous and flexible that he swings his club abnormally far round his head. It looks very pretty, but he will probably be even better than he is when he controls the club rather more sternly. Mr. Thomas, the left-hander, is, I fancy, a good deal stronger player than he showed himself last year. Of the new players, I know only the game of Mr. Cave, a senior. He is a very sound player with plenty of strength, an easy style, and enviable power of standing firm and still. I am badly mistaken if he does not prove himself a good golfer. Mr. Tolley and Mr. Wethered are, of course, two towers of strength, and the most hopeful thing about the side is that though these two were both beaten at Stoke Poges, the team as a whole won very handsomely. It is a great thing not to be too dependent on your leaders—even on an Amateur Champion.

WHY NOT SCORE BY HOLES?

Cambridge seem to have much the same sort of side as last year, which means, I trust, that they are better than people think and will train on and rise to the occasion when the day arrives. I wonder, by the way, if it is hopeless to suggest that the scoring in the University match be by holes as it used to be, instead of by matches. It is asking a good deal of Cambridge, because Mr. Tolley and Mr. Wethered may win a whole pocketful of holes between them, and their joint contribution last year would certainly have won the match for Oxford. However, in Mr. Sam Weller's words, which I am sure I have quoted before, "Hooroar for the principle." And a great many people are coming round to the view that the old way in team matches was the better way. It was a harsher one, no doubt. To start a thirty-six-hole match against a formidable opponent was to feel a chill down the spine at the thought of possibly losing twelve holes or so for the side. But it was very good discipline. Now a man when he knows that, humanly speaking, he cannot avoid a beating may chuck up the sponge and stop trying. In old days he had to go on trying, and some of the gallantest feats were those by which a man beaten seven or eight holes from home managed to make this deficit very much smaller by the end. There is, too, more of the team element in a match when every hole played by every man swells the reckoning. Finally, there was some unjust and ill-informed criticism of the Cambridge captain last year as to the order in which he placed his team. It is hardly worth considering perhaps, but when holes are counted there can be no misunderstanding on that point.

CARTRIDGE LOADING

BY MAX BAKER.

MY first lesson in cartridge loading occurred on the occasion of an evening spent at the bachelor chambers of an enthusiastic clay bird shot. He loved to surround himself with the paraphernalia of guns. Cartridges of his own loading were famous at the club where he resorted and had earned several contemptuous nicknames. Our joint task was to reload two fired paper cases, and although one might imagine that so modest a programme would be quickly completed, in point of fact it lasted the best part of two hours. First of all the frayed ends had to be trimmed down, then the fired cap was extracted and replaced with a new one, following which a series of components had to be chosen which would suit the diminished capacity of the case. Necessary implements were stowed away in odd places. They had to be found in turn and their history narrated. At the finish two rather untidy-looking cartridges were completed, and were carefully put aside for use in the practice series with which the coming Saturday's programme would commence.

The next lesson was at one of the powder-making factories, where a week-end visit was being paid. There a properly furnished laboratory was available, so that the operation which had previously seemed full of complexity resolved itself into one of extreme simplicity. Later still I became possessed of my own complete loading arrangements, a view of which is here presented. This department occupies one end of the pavilion which was illustrated and described in our issue of October 30th. Shooting literature of the early part of last century contained many hints on the loading of guns, since, muzzle-loaders being then in use, every sportsman measured out his own charges and rammed them home. Peculiar ideas were prevalent. Daniel, I think it was, after speaking learnedly and at great length on wadding, revealed in the final paragraph the fruits of his lifetime experience. The best material for wadding was "hat," but what sort of hat was meant I have never been able to learn. When cartridges came along there necessarily existed a large number of sportsmen who were fitted by their previous experience and studies to lay down the law as to the best materials and combinations.

Nowadays cartridge loading has almost entirely dropped out of the list of privately pursued hobbies, the reason probably being that smokeless powder is so much more dependent than black ever was on the degree of compression imparted, the fit of the wads, the true measuring of charges and the tightness of the turnover. The process of loading a cartridge is in reality more simple than is commonly realised, and there is little or no opening for making a mistake involving dangerous consequences. Whether the loading of one's own cartridges is economically advantageous depends entirely on whether any value is set against the time expended. As a hobby it might prove interesting, but hardly as a basis of experiment, since the opportunities of finding out anything new, or even of confirming established truths, are very slender. Whatever the object aimed at, the attempt would necessitate a considerable expenditure on apparatus.

Hand cartridge loading is to-day but the necessary preliminary to experimental tests to determine pressure, velocity, pattern and so forth. It has no other utilitarian purpose, the sole possible exceptions occurring in the case of those keen shooting men who really would like to try various load combinations one against another and be assured that the specification has been faithfully observed. I myself was once anxious to satisfy curiosity as to the practical effect on game of large-size shot pellets, and accordingly loaded up a dozen cartridges with B shot, running eighty to the ounce. When the gun happened to be so loaded a pheasant got up quite close and promptly fell to the first discharge. The keeper was informed later of the cock bird which was down, and he went forward to gather it, but returned empty-handed a few moments later with the explanation that no sooner had he reached the bird than it jumped up, and he "never saw a bird run so fast" in his life. Tests with small batches of a particular load are not very satisfactory, since too much significance is attached to single results. On the other hand, tests with larger quantities are for convenience conducted with bought supplies. Even so, there may be those who would be interested to know the only appropriate procedure for loading their own cartridges.

The one essential is to abandon all idea of using any of the more or less ingenious powder measuring machines. Theoretically, so much powder occupies so much space, but in practice there is no uniformity and no certainty of obtaining the right load, except by weighing. The old form of powder scales, reminiscent of the mediæval appliances which are still used in chemists' shops and, most remarkable of all, by jewellers, is quite useless. The students' edition of the chemical balance is in reality remarkably cheap, and will turn freely to the tenth of a grain. In powder and cartridge factories the balance made by the firm of Becker is almost invariably used, its removable pans being a convenience for transferring the powder *via* a funnel into the cartridge case. Some kind of spoon is needed for passing the powder from the bowl to the scale pan

and for making the additions or removals necessary to secure a true balance. A dipper holding the standard charge is best, since it ensures at the onset a close approximation to the final result. Though the operation sounds slow and tedious when described, it becomes very expeditious after a brief course of practice. Anyhow, two or three minutes usually see ten cartridges accurately charged with powder, and the rest is purely mechanical.

So much is said about wadding in the various handbooks issued by the trade that there is no need to enter into detail in the present connection. Suffice to say that the first card wad is placed in the mouth of the cartridge and is firmly seated on the powder with the rammer, the last named consisting of a handle having an extending parallel to fit the case. The felt wad can only conveniently be inserted by taking the case in the left hand and by partly screwing and partly pressing with the finger and thumb of the right hand. The card on top of the felt is next inserted, the rammer being used to seat the last two wads on top of the one first inserted. Considerable pressure is required at the end of the stroke in order to force the wads another sixteenth of an inch down on to the powder. This



THE CARTRIDGE LOADING "DEPARTMENT" AT PERIVALE.

compression is essential, for the powder in a loaded cartridge must be sufficiently solid to resist the pressure put on in making the turnover. In fact, the whole contents of the case must be so firmly embedded that they cannot later on shake loose, even if the test put upon them is transit by goods train to Scotland.

For hand-loading there is only one way of measuring the shot charge, viz., by means of the counting trowel. This is a flat plate into which shallow holes are drilled, the result being that when the trowel is stabbed into the shot receptacle pellets are retained in as many cells as have been exposed. The trowel is adjusted beforehand for the required total of pellets in the charge, the counting being so expeditious that ten cartridges can be served with their contents in a minute. Provided the felt wad is of correct thickness, the necessary allowance of tube then remains for receiving the top wad and for turning over. When serious work is contemplated, one of the special treadle turnover machines, as illustrated, must be used, but failing it the hand apparatus may be employed. The essential part of the machine is the chuck which crimps the mouth of the case by the pressure of a species of cone.

Such in brief is the procedure which must be adopted by anyone who would essay to load his own cartridges. Given the requisite interest in mechanical processes, there is practically no obstacle which cannot readily be overcome. Dangerous consequences are practically impossible, since an overcharge of powder diminishes the accommodation available for shot.

and it is the two together which breed pressure. The principal risk is omission to insert any powder at all, for when the deficient cartridge comes to be fired the cap might lodge the shot in the barrel, with a certain burst ensuing when the next cartridge is fired. But if the processes are properly ordered and carried through the absence of a powder charge would be certain to reveal itself when the wads were being seated.

Considering how many of our leading authorities on shooting technics have written in detail concerning powders and the selection of charges, it is remarkable how few of them reveal by their writing that they have ever done their own filling. Usually they have been content to adopt the teaching of their gunmaker in all that appertains to this art. Possibly they have been wise in their generation, for experimentation of this kind has no interest unless variations can be tried, and amateur knowledge can never be relied upon to decide what variations are permissible and what other variations will produce dangerous conditions. In fact, the main objection to cartridge loading as a private hobby is the risk it involves of doing something original. It is essentially a hobby where the sole right of way is the beaten track. All the combinations which ingenuity can conceive have been tested to exhaustion, and the final outcome of their teaching is the present-day standard specification. You cannot improve on it, and therefore the best that private loading can achieve is a fair reproduction of the commercial article. And cartridges, like cigarettes, are sold at approximately the same price as their component parts.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SHOOTING GROUNDS.

SIR,—May I ask your courtesy for a small space on a point of journalistic usage in which I feel I can count upon the ready sympathy of a brother editor. In your issue of October 30th, Mr. Max Baker contributes an article (with

undated photographs) and quotes a phrase of mine (with many others), concerning the Perivale Range, to the effect that it "was not entirely safe or suited to experimental rifle work"; and he complains that "the *Field* scarcely shows its traditional fairness in its reference to its old testing-ground." I might, perhaps, have observed that neither fairness nor the traditions of an old-world courtesy wholly deserted the *Field* when Mr. Baker made it impossible for me to continue my relations with him. But my respect for his technical accuracy remains as high as ever it was, and I have therefore no hesitation in laying before you the sentence on which I based the opinion he has quoted from one of my recent issues. That sentence, written and signed by Mr. Max Baker on January 27th, 1920, runs as follows: "Please remember the shooting-ground (Perivale) is not properly equipped for rifle experiments and that such work is now especially awkward with the shooting-school on which the site is located constantly crowded with visitors." The statements made by Mr. Baker—to only one of which I have referred—would by no means have interested me had they not been printed in your paper (to which I have so often had the honour of contributing), and had not Mr. Baker deliberately connected them with the interests of your confiding readers.—THEODORE A. COOK, Editor of the *Field*.

[The letter containing the statement above quoted was especially referred to when the article dealing with the COUNTRY LIFE shooting ground was under preparation, the object being to ascertain whether it could account for the mistake into which our contemporary had fallen. The correspondence related to a request that certain velocity tests with rifles might be conducted in Mr. Max Baker's absence. This particular experiment did then and does still involve the difficulties referred to, so much so that nobody but Mr. Baker is allowed to do the firing, and then only at times when pupils of the shooting school are not undergoing tuition in the vicinity. Had trajectory tests been required there would have been no occasion to do the shooting within a radius which would permit electrical connection to be established with the instruments, hence the ordinary routine would have been followed of applying to the shooting school for the use of their ranges. The meaning of the reference to undated photographs is not quite clear, but there is no objection to stating that they were taken last month, to be exact, on the 7th.—ED.]

THE ARCHITECT OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

Westminster Cathedral and its Architect, by Winefride de L'Hopital. (Hutchinson.)

MRS. DE L'HOPITAL'S two volumes on the life and work of her father, John Francis Bentley, combine the personal narrative, which a daughter is so well qualified to unfold, with a careful and often technical account and criticism of his professional achievement sedulously gathered from architectural experts. His career culminated and ended with the designing and erecting of Westminster Cathedral and so outstanding is this last and splendid effort held to be by Mrs. de L'Hopital, that she not only takes it as the title of her book, but devotes the first volume to it, so that it is only when we turn to the second that we hear of the "birth and parentage" and other incidents in the career of its architect. There we learn that the innate strength of his artistic temperament was so great that no barren soil or adverse cultivation could prevent its upspringing and sturdy growth. His father was a Yorkshire business man, holding somewhat puritanical views. "His household was strict, and indeed marked by its severity at a period when the old 'Spare the rod' maxim seems to have embodied almost the whole idea of family discipline in the class to which he belonged." To him art and Romanism were roads to perdition in this world and the next, and the whip which hung over the dining-room door was the chosen instrument for exorcising such evil spirits from misguided youth. John must not be an artist or even an architect. A builder he might be. That was a practical occupation, remunerative enough if conducted on sound commercial lines. Fortunately Messrs. Winslow and Holland, to whom he was apprenticed, discovered and encouraged his real bent, and were prepared to hand him over to Henry Clutton, then much to the fore as an ecclesiastical architect. The death of Bentley senior in 1856 facilitated the transfer of Bentley junior, aged eighteen, to Clutton's office. After three years he was offered a partnership, which his desire for the free and independent exercise of his "exuberant originality and love of detail" induced him to refuse. While under Clutton he had been concerned with the Jesuits' Church in Farm Street and that of the Oblates at Notting Hill. Further work on the latter was entrusted to him when he started on his own account, and this led to Cardinal Wiseman's promise to baptise him if he wished to enter the Roman Communion, which, indeed, took place in 1862. Thus he became professionally a *persona grata* to the leaders of the English Catholics, and his clients were mostly of that communion.

Preparation for the building of a cathedral had been made during his occupancy of the See of Westminster by Cardinal Manning, who purchased the site in 1884. But ten years passed before his successor, Cardinal Vaughan, had advanced matters to the stage when choice of an architect should be made, and the choice fell on Bentley in July, 1894. Hitherto he had been of the many—although certainly of the best and most thoughtful—who had confined themselves to the Gothic style. But before deciding on Bentley as architect the Cardinal had made up his mind that the new cathedral should be of the basilica type, and Bentley agreed in principle, saying that, "personally I should have preferred a Gothic church; yet, on consideration, I am inclined to think that the Cardinal was right." But to any approach to the Renaissance, to Italian barocco, he was inexorably opposed, and he carried the day in favour of the Byzantine manner, to which he had always had a strong leaning. The "Gothics" fought hard and the Cardinal had to use persuasion and argument. The congregational needs of a metropolitan cathedral were best met in a wide nave, unimpeded by columns and screen and giving full view of the sanctuary. In the Byzantine style the interior decoration being in small measure structural, the whole space could be erected, covered and used for a moderate sum and expensive completion could follow gradually. Bentley added the view: "That to build the principal Catholic Church in England in a style which was absolutely primitive Christian, which was not confined to Italy, England, or any other nation, but was, up to the ninth century, spread over many countries, would be the wisest thing to do."

Before setting pencil to paper he decided "to study his subject at first hand in Italy and Constantinople." He spent the Christmas of 1894 at Rome, which impressed him as "almost a modern city like Turin, dating from about the middle of the sixteenth century with a great number of dreadful churches." However pleasant socially his six weeks' stay in this "modern city" may have been it was architecturally unprofitable and he concentrated his professional attention on the Romanesque churches of North and Central Italy, and finally on those "built under Eastern influence in the Adriatic provinces." He was at Ravenna and Venice in the early spring and, abandoning the idea of reaching Constantinople, was back in London on March 10th, 1895. Three months of hard work produced plans so far matured that the ceremony of laying the first stone of the great church took place in June; while in the same month eight years later "it was opened for the first great solemnity within its walls, the body of the Cardinal Founder being borne over the threshold to lie in state beneath the domes he had raised in the plenitude of enthusiasm and energy."

Bentley had many problems to solve, many difficulties to face. What they were and how he met them he largely himself explained in the "Westminster Cathedral Record." He tells us that the plan "is not that of an Eastern church of the Justinian period, but rather an example of what might have been unfolded had not the decadence of the Roman Empire terminated the growth of congregational requirements in the East." Thus, while preserving the manner and spirit, he had to alter and expand it for new purposes and needs. His nave must hold a vast concourse and to all the sanctuary must be visible. That his genius was fully adequate to this delicate translation of forms and proportions is proved by the dignified and impressive character of his interior, although still, except in side chapels, destitute of its decorative revetment of marble and mosaic. The more finished exterior, of which Portland stone and specially hand-made narrow bricks are the principal materials, reveals an infinite amount of thought for adequate and right detail combined into an elaborate, intricate, yet calmly satisfying whole. At first the contrasting tones of brick and stone, especially where used in bands, struck the eye rather strongly. The London atmosphere has already mitigated that effect, which is an entirely correct one in a new building meant to endure, or time, instead of merely mellowing, will obliterate the intended tone and colour distinctions. How the structural requirements were fulfilled, how counterforts were supplied fully adequate and yet disciplined into consonance with the general plan and forms was very ably considered in a paper read by Mr. J. A. Marshall before the Architectural Association in 1927 and much quoted by Mrs. de L'Hopital in her chapter on "The Structure." She also makes us realise the hard work and mental effort imposed on her father by his love of detail. The many stone and marble columns and pilasters distributed within and without have each a separately designed capital. All breathe the Byzantine spirit and yet none is a direct copy. No effort was too great to produce separate and individual effect in each portion and item by both treatment and choice of material. "It was Bentley's intention to employ over sixty species of marble from all quarters of the world." This is playing with fire and demands a high degree of informed invention restrained by sensitive taste. Bentley had this, and his designs for the revetments of both nave and chapels show a happy conjunction of active hand and disciplined eye. What was completed in his lifetime, such as the font and other work in the baptistry and the Chapels of SS. Gregory and Augustine and of the Holy Souls, is admirable. Working to the last, and exhausted in mind and body by unsparing toil, he passed away in 1902. A man of choice temperament, lofty purpose and high accomplishment, the great opportunity came to him in his maturity. He took it and proved worthy of it. Professor Lethaby in his introduction to Mrs. de L'Hopital's book rightly calls the Cathedral "a building nobly planned, carefully balanced and soundly constructed."

H. AVRAY TIPPING

A CAUSE OF TROUBLE AMONG RABBITS

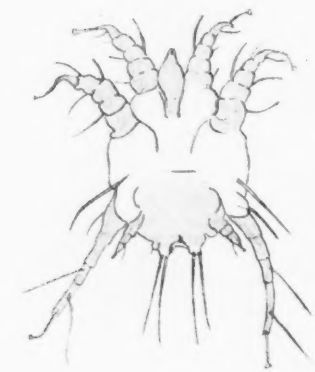
CANKER of the ear is probably a far commoner indirect cause of loss in rabbits than is generally suspected. If symptoms of this complaint are systematically searched for in all rabbits which come under notice it is extremely likely that the majority will be found to be affected. In most cases the general health of the rabbit appears to be unimpaired; but every now and then an animal behaves peculiarly or falls ill and eventually dies of some mysterious complaint which baffles owner and veterinary adviser alike. A *post-mortem* examination probably fails to reveal a satisfactory cause of death, the enlarged liver, slight parasitical infestation, etc., which may be often found seeming hardly sufficient to have been a cause of death by itself. The external ear is the last place where one would ordinarily think of looking for the prime cause of the ill health.

Canker of the ear as commonly known is caused by acari, known scientifically as *Psoroptes cuniculi*, allied to the species which cause mange in horses and other animals. The acari are usually credited with being transferred from ear to ear in rabbits by more or less direct contact. The irritation and exudation created by their presence in this position cause the ears to gradually fill up with dried wax, *débris*, etc., until, in a bad case, the half-drooping ear is obviously diseased and the victim gradually wastes away. The accompanying illustration shows a specimen of *Psoroptes cuniculi* taken from the ear of an English rabbit.

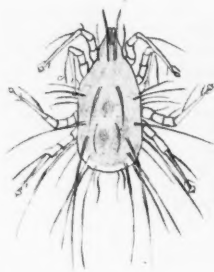
For several years certain rabbits in the writer's charge were troubled with canker which, in spite of assiduous attention with well tried and approved remedies, failed to yield permanently to treatment. For a long time it was taken for granted that the cause of the trouble was the creature herewith depicted, and that anything else found in the ears was of the nature of an accidental visitant attracted to a field already prepared by other acari. It was not until a very valuable young rabbit was on the point of death from wasting away, its ears being clean to the eye, the only symptom being that it held its head on one side, that a closer research into the matter was initiated. This rabbit eventually recovered upon having its apparently healthy ears systematically treated for canker. But no *Psoroptes* were found. Furthermore, although during many subsequent months almost all the rabbits, adults and youngsters alike, were found to have ear trouble in more or less marked degree, the most assiduous attention failed to stamp it out.

In every case in which a microscopical examination of the contents of the ears was made the creature found in these rabbits' ears at all stages of growth and maturity was a mite known to science as *Glycyphagus domesticus*, which is very commonly found in hay, meals, dried vegetable matter and a number of other substances which are normally introduced into a rabbitry.

It will be seen from a comparison of the outline illustrations drawn with the camera lucida, that *Glycyphagus domesticus* is quite unlike the *Psoroptes* which have hitherto had the sole credit of creating parasitic canker of the ear in rabbits. *Glycyphagi* were found in the forage given to the rabbits, and little doubt is now entertained



Psoroptes cuniculi from a rabbit's ear, magnified about 40 diameters.



Glycyphagus domesticus from a rabbit's ear, magnified about 40 diameters.

that the difficulty experienced in stamping out the disease was due to a constant re-infection from this source. One of the greatest and most mysterious troubles at the beginning of the investigation was that little rabbits sometimes came out of the nest with symptoms of canker, which one now presumes they acquired from the hay with which the nest was made.

As a general rule rabbits carrying these creatures in their ears may appear to thrive fairly well. The severity of the illness caused is probably dependent mainly upon the precise position in the ear occupied by the mites. Sometimes, as in the case already mentioned, the creatures are so deep down that their workings are invisible, yet they are in a spot so vital as to lead to ultimate death. Occasionally in long-standing cases the

tympanum becomes so disorganised as to rupture easily when dressings are applied. Usually, however, little crusts at the base of the external ear suggest the presence of *Glycyphagus domesticus*. When these are found and dressings applied it is wonderful how soon the rabbit becomes sleeker and more lively; indeed, if ear trouble of this nature is suspected, it will pay to apply a weekly dressing to all the rabbits' ears, for it is extraordinary how much faster youngsters grow, and how much healthier animals of all ages look, if kept free from even slight troubles of this character.

Symptoms which have been noticed as characteristic of this complaint in the absence of direct evidence of marked disorganisation in the ear are: Undue scariness or nervousness, extreme mopiness, loss of appetite, wasting from no obvious cause and slow growth in well fed young rabbits, together with a coat which is more or less rough, dull and without gloss, and possibly more or less chronically moulty.

Any of the good and inexpensive lotions or liniments made up for canker of the ear will be efficacious, equal parts of olive oil and benzine applied as far down the inside of the ear as it is possible to get with a camel's hair brush being a favourite with some people; while glycerine 100 grammes, crystallised carbolic acid 2 grammes, oil of turpentine and laudanum of each 1 gramme, is a foreign prescription which has been successful in the writer's hands if persevered with for about three months.

C. J. DAVIES.

SUPERSTITIONS OF SUSSEX

"HE can't die easy. Lift him off the bed. Maybe there's ge'ame feathers in it."

I heard the expression and wondered, but the dying man was lifted from his bed to a sofa, and I heard later that he had passed away afterwards without any trouble or pain. Seeking to know what had been referred to, I discovered there is a superstition in Sussex that if there are any feathers from game birds in pillow or bed a dying person cannot pass away, but will linger on in pain and longing. In Surrey I found this same superstition believed, but the expression "wild feathers" used.

In Sussex a few old bee gardens remain, the ancient bee-master may be met with and, although he may adapt himself to the modern methods of bee-keeping, he reverences the old customs of his forefathers and clings to the old superstitions, although rarely will he speak of these things unless he finds you really sympathetic.

It was an old Sussex bee-keeper who told me it was unlucky to sell bees, but if a price was paid it must be gold or hay. To-day he estimated the value of a swarm of bees at that of a bushel of corn. If a hive swarms in May Sussex folk turn their money for luck, but they take good care to make a noise with some tin instrument such as a kettle or frying-pan to let neighbours know the bees are swarming. The swarm can then be claimed, no matter where it may be. Sometimes, however, if the bees fly high they say it would be bad luck "to hike 'em back."

If the head of the house dies the bees are "told," and a piece of crape is attached to the hive as a sign of mourning. I was told last year in Horsted Keynes that it is customary to take the key of the house to "wake" the bees when a death occurs in the family. They are then "told" and put into mourning.

Usually those who assist at the taking of a new swarm are given "lucky ale" to drink, and a little of the ale is sprinkled over the new hive. It is then wiped out with a handful of sweet-smelling herbs. Probably the "lucky ale" takes the place of the methglin, the Anglo-Saxon drink that King Alfred loved, which was formerly drunk on such occasions.

The shepherds of the South Downs say that when the sheep go up to upper pastures it means fine weather, if they go down into the coombes it is a sign of rain. An old shepherd told me that when his father died a lock of sheep's wool was put in his coffin, so that at the Last Day it might be "accounted righteous" to him. Seeking for an explanation of the phrase I found that as shepherds by virtue of their occupation can attend church only in irregular fashion, the lock of sheep's wool was a kind of excuse for little church-going. This same old man told me that in his young days the shepherds of the Downs would carry the fore-foot of a mole in a little bag of sheepskin worn around the neck, to keep off cramp. Beech galls are called "cramp nuts" in Sussex, and are still carried as charms against this ailment.

In Sussex to put on the right stocking before the left is lucky, and it is said those who do this will never suffer from toothache. The pith of the elder, threaded on white thread, drawn through a wax candle, makes a charm for whooping-cough, and in some places mothers of sickly children make a little cross of elder wood and hang it around the child's neck as a charm.

Quaint superstitions linger and are still firmly believed in; the old folk still speak of "pharisees," the Sussle name for the fairies, and at night as the wind sweeps over the Weald it is easy to credit that "there be unaccountable sing'lar happenin's down Sussex way, surely," especially if you are a lover of old customs and a listener to quaint tales. M. STANLEY WRENCH.